

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	323
Leading Articles.—	
Encounter with Pirates near Macao	323
The Boycott	324
Boycotters and—or Rebels	324
Macao	324
France and the Balkans	325
Bahaism	325
Disreputable Reports	326
Hongkong Sanitary Board	326
The Opium Question	327
Supreme Court	328
Departure of the Governor of Macao	329
Correspondence:—	
Public Health and Buildings Ordinance Amend- ment	330
Victoria Gaol	331
The Work of the Post Office	331
Jurors Fined	332
Japan	333
Rusings in Annam	333
Companies:—	
The National Bank of China Ltd	334
Peak Tramways Company	334
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	334
The "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd.	335
Commercial	336
Shipping	338

DEATHS.

On May 7th, at Shanghai, GEORGINA MORGAN,
aged 42 years.

IN MEMORIAM.

In Sad and Loving Memory of R. D. VANIA,
died on 20th May, 1906.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 24th ult. arrived per
N. D. L. s.s. *Prinz Heinrich* on the 19th inst.

The French Mail of the 24th ult. arrived per
M. M. s.s. *Tonkin* to-day the 25th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to
give direction for the appointment of Mr. W.
Rees Davies, Attorney General of the Colony of
Hongkong, to the rank of King's Counsel.

At the Marine Court on May 20th three of
the crew of the steamer "Clan Macmillan"
were ordered to forfeit six days' pay for failing
to return to the ship after having received an
advance from the captain in order to enable them
to send money home. Nine were ordered to
forfeit twelve days' pay.

Pirates have again appeared in Chefoo waters.
A few days ago while a fleet of about a hundred
fishing boats were out they were attacked by
ten pirate boats a few miles down the coast. It
is stated, says the "Chefoo Morning Post,"
that being dissatisfied with the smallness of
their plunder they wreaked their vengeance
by damaging nearly forty of the smacks, as
well as seriously injuring twenty of the fisher-
men. The incident has been reported to the
native authorities through the Fishing Industry
Company.

Mr. Yamada Teizo, residing at Suwacho,
Koishikawa, Tokyo, reported to the Governor
of the Bonin Islands that in August last he
discovered an island situated in 30 degrees north
latitude and 154 degrees east longitude in the
neighbourhood of the Bonins, and the report
has been referred to the Governor of Tokyo,
who has applied to the Home Minister for
instructions as to the course to be taken.
According to the report of Mr. Yamada, the
island is situated 560 miles from the Bonins, and
is about 3 miles in circumference. It is declared
to be covered with phosphorus to the extent of
80 per cent. of the surface, the deposit being
about 6 feet thick, and the percentage of
phosphorus lime contained ranging from 20 to
25. Yuta trees are growing there at the rate
of one on each taubo of ground, but there is no
water supply. Enormous numbers of sea-fowl
abound.

EXTRAORDINARY THEATRE AUDIENCES.

The past week or so has witnessed extra-
ordinary scenes at temporary Chinese theatres.
The five days' performances at Causeway Bay
have just concluded, and the police in that
locality are relieved of the extra duty which
fell to their lot in that connection. These
performances, which are of a reikius nature,
attracted audiences of vast dimensions. On
Saturday night it was estimated that there
were at least seven thousand people in the
mashed. Every available inch of space was
utilised and many spectators were accommodated
in the rigging. A special company of talented
artists was brought down from Canton at a
cost of no less than \$175, and another \$250
was spent in erecting the large matted, so
that the kaifong of Jardine's Bazaar who were
the promoters of this show had to clear \$2000
before they made any profit. And there can be
no doubt that a handsome profit was made.
The Chinese are more patient than Occidentals
and they do not rush away home after a few
hours' entertainment. Many of them sit the
performances out all night, from six o'clock at
night till six in the morning.

But large as the audiences were at Causeway
Bay they were eclipsed at Yumati last week,
where at the temporary theatre one night there
were no fewer than 10,000 people and the
profit made on the five days' performances
amounted to \$3000.

The manager of Messrs. Semson and
Company was proceeded against at the
Magistracy on May 22nd by Detective Sergt.
Territt for having furnished an incorrect
return of the arms in their possession. He
pleaded guilty and stated that it was due to
a clerical error. His Worship accepted the
explanation but said he must impose a nominal
fine of one dollar. The returns disputed had
reference to 34 rifles and seven cases of
ammunition.

ENCOUNTER WITH PIRATES NEAR MACAO.

POLICEMEN KILLED AND INJURED.

Our Macao correspondent, writing May 21st,
says:—

On May 22nd the Protector of Chi-
nese, accompanied by Mr. C. d'A.umpcao, the
interpreter, and three policemen in plain
clothes went over to Colowane at the request
of the Chinese authorities there to capture
some pirates. On arriving at Colowane they
obtained the assistance of half a dozen Indian
policemen and as they were proceeding through
the village they were unexpectedly assailed
by a fusillade of shots, fired from the houses
and shops. A Chinese policeman was fatally shot,
but before dropping he shouted to his comrades
not to advance as the pirates were superior in
number. An Indian policeman was also killed
and two others very seriously wounded. The
other three Indians and two plain-clothes
constables retired unhurt.

The gunboat *Rio Lima* was in the bay at the
time and rendered very opportune assistance,
or the whole of the police might have been
killed.

It was very well known that the pirates were
in considerable strength at Colowane—20 at
least—and it is considered very imprudent to
have taken such a small force to attempt
their capture.

This morning at three o'clock a mixed force
of 20 men left for Colowan. The force was
composed of 80 police commanded by Lieu-
tenants Ribas and Santos; 40 infantry com-
manded by Lieut. Roza; 40 artillerymen,
armed with rifles and commanded by Lieut.
Mundo, and 40 marines from the *Rio Lima*
under the command of the lieutenant of the
gunboat, Captain D. Menezes was in supreme
command. The force with the exception of the
artillerymen returned this afternoon at four
o'clock after having marched over the whole
island of Colowane and making a thorough search
of the villages. In one pawnshop many rifles
and three baskets full of ammunition were
found and confiscated.

The artillerymen remain on the island for a
few days. The business-like appearance of the
infantry created a good impression among the
residents of Macao who witnessed their return,
but not so the other component parts of the
force.

No one expected that the force would succeed
in capturing the pirates. The force did not
start until twelve hours after the attack on the
police, and as the pirates doubtless expected a
punitive expedition they had ample time to get
away.

THE BOYCOTT.

(Daily Press, 16th May.)

Boycotters who simply boycott, and do not overtly incite others to boycott, are safe from interference. It is not possible by any constitutional method to make them do what they do not want to do. YUAN SHIH-KAI at Tientsin, during the time of the American boycott, must have found some way, for he effectively prevented the movement from gaining ground at that port. The Chinese authorities, if they really wished to stop it, could do so, for they are not hampered by such restrictions as British officials have to observe. It is patent enough that at Canton the officials do not want to meddle with the movement that has been set afoot since the "Tatsu-maru" affair, and that they are not sincere in their protestations of helplessness to Peking, where the suicidal aspect of the agitation is recognised. In this Colony we are not sure that the authorities have done quite all that they might have done. We are of opinion that the announcement posted at some shops, that Japanese goods are not to be obtained within, and the like, might fairly be forbidden. They are unnecessary, in the sense that a man who never did sell Japanese goods would not have thought of announcing the fact. A keeper of a fried-fish shop does not hoist a placard to say that he does not sell sewing-machines. All the shops that are showing these announcements in Hongkong may be fairly considered to be inciting to boycott—for the implication of these "innocent" announcements is quite well understood—and we suggest that the Police should be given instructions to order their removal wherever seen, and to prosecute where the order is disobeyed, or the offence repeated. By so doing we would, as a Colony, be doing our duty to our Allies, and at the same time seconding the efforts of the Chinese Central Government, which has signified its disapproval of this boycott. We should also thereby squash the suspicion that we are—as tradesmen—desirous of profiting by something we know to be wrong. We do not believe that any of us have sympathised with the boycott movement, because we all know very well that if the Chinese get accustomed to use that weapon and find it invariably successful that it might very easily be turned against ourselves before very long, perhaps for some very trivial and unanticipated reason. It is becoming plain enough now to acute observers that this boycott does not rest upon an exclusively anti-Japanese basis. It is, so far as the Cantonese are concerned, a sort of test case, to decide whether the two Kwang are to be governed from Peking or Canton. While we are not particularly in love with the present Dynasty, it is the Government, and it is vitally important to foreign interests (as well as to Chinese progress) that the power of the one and undivided authority should be upheld, that there should be only the one responsible headquarters. If the British had been occupying Japan's shoes at the present moment, the China Association and others in this Colony would certainly have been agitating for the dismissal of the present Viceroy, and for his substitution by some official who would have shown readier obedience to the instructions of the Central Government. It can be no satisfaction to our Japanese friends and allies that the Chinese boycotters are and must be suffering economically *pari passu* with themselves, and it is not viewed with any more complacency at Peking, where the high authorities are realizing to the full the direction in which Cantonese frenzy is

pulling them. The Central Government cannot afford to let it go on much longer, without having to pay ultimately for present weakness, and if the Police at Hongkong be instructed to show a firmer front to those who are keeping the bare letter of the law, while flagrantly defying its spirit, we have little doubt that they would thereby oblige Peking as much as they would oblige Tokyo.

BOYCOTTERS AND—OR REBELS.

(Daily Press, May 18th.)

CHAN WAI-PO, the chairman of the "Self-Government Society of Canton," and guiding spirit of the boycott against the Japanese, left Hongkong last week with his trained staff of agitators. His destination was Annam. It is conceivable that there is something more than mere coincidence in this choice of place for "strengthening the movement against the Japanese." Our readers will have noted two or three references within recent days to events that are taking place in Annam and about the Yunnan border, and there is at least ground for suspecting that the curiously styled "Self-government Society" of Canton is in strong sympathy with the anti-monarchists of Yunnan, who are reported to have massed on the frontier to the number of four or five thousand, bearing arms of the latest pattern. These rebels have been finding Annam a convenient sort of sanctuary. The chairman of the "Self-Government Society" of Canton is on his way to Annam. Certainly that is a coincidence lending colour to our recent allegation (the truth of which is generally admitted now) that the boycott is at bottom an anti-dynastic movement. If CHAN WAI-PO is a rebel, it is to be hoped that the French authorities will intercept him before he can join the others and cause more mischief. In any case they will not be likely to approve of such propagandists adding to the ferment already observable in Annam. The raiders on the Yunnan border have openly declared themselves to be the soldiers of SUN YAT-SEN, a gentleman whom the Chinese Government would very much like to catch. The Viceroy of the Yunkwei provinces reports that they (the insurgents) appear to be well provided with funds, a commissariat, and excellent arms and ammunition. They have already captured some Government forts and many Government rifles, and the Viceroy has asked that his neighbours be instructed to send reinforcements, otherwise he cannot hold Yunnan for the Empire! The Governor of Kwangsi was thereupon ordered to send troops with all possible speed. There is also a story of a protest from the Waiwupu to the French Government, complaining that Annam is being allowed to be used as a rebel base. It is quite certain that the French do not want that sort of thing going on, and possibly they have been as much surprised as the Yunnan Viceroy was. Unfortunately, their regular forces have been seriously reduced in that part of the world, and they are not in a position to sweep up the country or to adequately guard their frontier from being violated as it seems to have been. They ought to be able to intercept the Cantonese visitors and keep them out of mischief. The *N.C. Daily News* suspects that the trouble is being greatly exaggerated, "for the sake of the kudos that will be attainable at the end of the campaign," and so far as the tales of furious fighting go, we have no doubt that it is all bunkum. But there is another cause of exaggeration, panic, and panic may,

like smoke of fire, be taken as an indication of the existence of something out of order. These rascals are moving about and demonstrating, and though there is no chance of their achieving anything big, they cause worry and loss all round.

MACAO.

(Daily Press, 19th May.)

The Colony of Macao was never in such sore straits as it is to-day and it is not to be wondered at that the highly laudatory references to the departing Governor which have been made in the Press should prompt a query as to whether they are entirely deserved. We print in another column some observations by a valued correspondent who pertinently points to the fact that during the short term of His Excellency's administration business in Macao has gone from bad to worse. The revenues of the Colony have also suffered from the fact that half the *fan-tan* shops which existed when His Excellency came to the Colony, are now closed. The Santa Casa Lottery (another revenue-earning institution) has also ceased to exist, "owing to the greed of somebody in authority," our contributor affirms. Again, we are told that about half the Chinese population have left the Colony, and now practically the Colony's only remaining industry, the Silk Spinning Works, which formerly employed hundreds of women and children, is permanently closed owing to trouble with the Government officials. It must be confessed that this represents a sad record of failure, but can the blame be justly laid upon the shoulders of Senhor COUTINHO? Our contributor's statement indicates that there is much that is rotten in the government of the Colony, and *prima facie* it is a charge against the governor that an important industry should disappear "owing to trouble with government officials," and, again, that another source of revenue should be lost "owing to the greed of somebody in authority." What the Governor's reply to such a charge would be we can only surmise. It is no new thing to hear such allegations made against subordinate officials in Macao, nor would it be new to hear suggestions that they had been concerned in deliberate attempts to embarrass the Governor; but as to the truth of such allegations we are not in a position to pronounce any opinion. Our contributor admits that amongst the Portuguese residents in the Colony the Governor has "a very good name," and we have every reason for believing that their laudations of Senhor COUTINHO as an honest administrator having at heart the welfare of the Colony was sincere and entirely free of sycophancy. Our regular correspondent at Macao, who is seldom able to say a good word for the administration, recognised that in Senhor COUTINHO the Colony had a capable and just administrator; but it matters little who may occupy that ornamental position so long as the Lisbon Government insists on exercising control over the pettiest details of the administration. Thwarted and humiliated as the Governor of Macao is shown to have been, we do not see how any Governor can hope to possess that control over the administrative machine which counts for efficiency. What seems to be urgently needed, if Macao is ever to recover her lost status in the East, is the appointment of a Commission composed of the best men available in Lisbon to thoroughly investigate the conditions of the Colony, and—what is still more important—that the Lisbon Government should act upon their recommendations.

In view of a suggestion much discussed at present in Hongkong we may add that we would not expect the Commission to hold out in their report the alluring prospect of Macao again becoming the emporium of the opium trade in South China now that the British Government has decided to do for Hongkong what the Lisbon Government has been foolishly doing for Macao. When the opium trade shifts to Macao it will mean the extinction of the Colony, for it would incense the Chinese Government and provoke trouble, and Portugal in the circumstances certainly would not be able to count on the material help nor the moral support of England, or any other Power probably, if the Chinese decided on seizing Macao as a retributive act of justice in the circumstances. It would be a far too dangerous enterprise for Portugal to invite the opium trade to Macao after it has been expelled from Hongkong.

(Daily Press, May 22nd.)

Not at all unexpectedly, we have received an indignant letter from a Portuguese gentleman who resents the criticism of the ex-Governor of Macao that we published from the pen of an occasional contributor. We may mention that the said contributor has sources of information that entitle him to speak with a great deal more authority of Macao affairs than the gentleman who now desires to contradict him can claim. He pointed out, it may be remembered, that all Portuguese speak in the most respectful and admiring way of the ex-Governor, and we refrain from publishing the resentful letter referred to, not because we are disinclined to give all sides a fair hearing, but because its writer has so obviously misread and misinterpreted our occasional contributor's remarks. When, for instance, the failure of the Macao lottery scheme was attributed to the greed of "somebody in authority," that somebody was clearly not His Excellency the departed Governor. The whole tenor of the contribution was against any such suggestion; only a hasty reader could have jumped at such a conclusion. What is certain is that there were many "somebodies in authority" who failed to give to the late Governor the loyal support and service that was his due. With passively, if not actively, mutinous subordinates in Macao, and a corrupt officialdom in Lisbon, the position of His Excellency was bound to become untenable, for even a stronger type of man than he. But our contributor's reference to the greedy ideas of "somebody in authority" fits somebody at Lisbon just as readily as it fits anybody elsewhere. Our contributor's critic says it is "entirely false" to say that half the Chinese have left Macao. It may not be entirely accurate, but that a very large number have abandoned Macao as the result of new legislation, in force or prospective, cannot be denied, and that it should have occurred during the régime of the ex-Governor certainly warranted inclusion in any review of his reign. The precise degree of his Excellency's responsibility for the conditions leading to it was not suggested; he was not wholly blamed for it, and he cannot be wholly exonerated. It seems no more to the purpose to point out that if business has gone from bad to worse at Macao, "so it has at Hongkong and all over the East." The suggestion is that business has become comparatively worse at Macao than at other Far Eastern places, and there appears to be ground for it; also for the hint that it is largely due to maladministration. The presentation of an address to his Excellency by the Leal

Senado in no way discounts the vraisemblances of our casual contributor's comments; it rather strengthens them. There was and is no imputation against the integrity and good intent of the ex-Governor, who compares remarkably favourably with many of whom we have been reading lately. But at least he does not seem to have shown the strength or determination of a Franco.

FRANCE AND THE BALKANS.

(Daily Press, 20th May.)

The French Government the other day declared with regard to the troubles in Bulgaria that its action was perfectly disinterested; the first feeling on reading the announcement was, as is customary with all disinterested announcements, that some deep laid and dangerous scheme was being harboured to upset the entire of Europe. Disinterested proposals have usually something unpleasant about them; and no quarter in Europe has been so fruitful in them as the Balkan Peninsula. As it is the unexpected that always happens, on looking further into the matter it becomes apparent that no machiavellian scheme is really concealed under the French proposals, and that they are really, so far as any private interests of her own are concerned, as she says, perfectly disinterested. This Bulgarian affair has, as we have had too much reason to know, for years been the bugbear of Europe, and proposals, each one more untenable than all that had gone before it, have been plentiful as blackberries in autumn. Each of the Powers considering itself interested has sought, not the settlement of the trouble, but to keep it open in the hope that something might eventually turn up to its own private advantage, and each has had its own scheme of evoking rain from heaven, but so that it should be of no service to its neighbour's crops. It is under these circumstances that France comes forward with no plan of her own, but to suggest a possible method of compromise. She likes all the schemes in turn, and will not use her influence to hamper any so far as they are intended to promote the harmony of Europe; but of all she rather prefers Russia's: Russia's is not after all so unlike that proposed by England, and so she thinks that it would not be a bad thing for Russia and England to put their heads together, and concoct something really feasible. It may, of course, be alleged that such a proposal is not as disinterested as France would make it appear; that France is deeply interested at the moment in the preservation of peace, and is prepared to momentarily sacrifice her traditional ambitions in order to gain the requisite time to make her future preparations. Now, of course, this is largely the case, but after all the true incentive to a peaceful policy is the feeling that a nation may be employed in much more profitable things in its own interest, than in seeking to make its neighbours uncomfortable.

Under these circumstances it is natural too that France should be desirous of bringing about a better understanding between Russia and England; and the feeling is not altogether quixotic nor sentimental, that as she is herself friendly with both, she would like to see them friendly between themselves. France has in fact much to gain from such an understanding: it entails no hardship nor responsibility on her, and it is almost impossible to imagine such a combination of circumstances as would make an understanding between the two in any way menacing to her interests. On the other hand there are circumstances under which a good understanding with both England and Russia may be of infinite advantage to

France, and such seems to be the case at the present with regard to the Balkan Peninsula. It is probable that, if the absorption of the Balkan lands by any of the great Powers became inevitable, France would prefer to see Russia there rather than Germany, but the mutual jealousies of the two have been so thoroughly aroused that neither event can at the moment be looked upon as within the limits of historical possibility. For the present Russia is a useful counterpoise to Germany in the Mediterranean; and France cannot forget that Germany has recently shown every intention to interfere with French development in this region, which France in the past has always looked upon as her special sphere. Quite apart from mere sentiment, which after all is but an uncertain ground for harmonious working, France has every object in preserving the status quo in Europe. She and England having tried the effect of a working understanding have found it not only practicable but agreeable, so that it might be supposed that with a good understanding with Italy, peace for the present generation at least, might be looked upon as assured. Unfortunately we have seen from too many indications recently that we can scarcely count upon its continuance from day to day. The little affair of the Mitrowitza Railway shows how baseless would be such an assurance. Of course the disturbing element on the Continent of Europe is the position of the Dual Monarchy. Without imputing ulterior motives to anyone, the combination in one political state of two peoples so diverse in their traditions and past history as Austria and Hungary has innate in it the seeds of instability; and here besides the ordinary grounds of common interest the bond of union is merely personal, and the two underlying stocks of Magyar and Teuton have so many centrifugal qualities that even their mutual respect for their common sovereign Francis Joseph has at times had difficulty in preserving their union. But the Emperor Francis Joseph is rapidly approaching the allotted span of human existence, and the future presents an unknowable blank, and Europe has to be on the qui vive for what may any day occur. A blow, or even a hasty word may in such an explosive atmosphere bring about a catastrophe, and Europe, without having time to think, may suddenly find itself parted into two hostile camps. The shock of such an explosion must naturally severely affect the stability of the dangerously unbalanced Balkan states, and probably lead to the outbreak of a war of extermination in all the provinces under Turkish rule. The most unbiassed state in Christendom could not afford to look with indifference on such a spectacle, and it is in the hope of finding the nations prepared for the eventuality that France seeks to engage beforehand the good offices of her two friends England and Russia. Whatever we may think of the possibilities of the case we are at least bound to acknowledge France's disinterestedness in the affair, and receive her suggestions in good part.

BAHAISM.

(Daily Press 21st May.)

It is impossible for what we call the human imagination to conceive any form or shape that is not reminiscent of something in nature. No concept of what-might-be is possible to the human mind except such as is based on what-has-been. Apart from experience and observation, the intellect is impotent. Those people who dream utopias are simply picturing an improvement of the

existent. Those who postulate "perfection" deceive themselves with verbiage. The utmost they can imagine is a minimum of imperfection. All the heavens ever postulated have been materialistic at their roots. As change is a phenomenon of everything empiric, as the senses never perceived anything in extension that was not subject to change, it is legitimate to conclude that the mind cannot contain a concept of changelessness. That which does not change does not exist. It is not even stagnation; it is vacuous. In case this preamble is not fallacious, the deduction is that even principles may change—except the unchanging principle that everything changes. The religious idea as a manifestation of human activity cannot, therefore, notwithstanding the Tenth Prus, be a thing immutable, a something stereotyped. It evolves, changes, progresses, perhaps even retrogresses. Asia in these days affords a more lavish illustration even than does Rome and Europe. Buddhism has changed and is changing, with the flux of meditation. Asiatic thought on the eternal abstractions goes on for ever, in spite of Asiatic scriptures. Asiatics have so much spare time, and they do not "kill" it by incessant chatter and social activity. The most interesting outcrop of religious progress within comparatively recent years comes from Persia, and has got the awkward name of Bahaism, after BAHÁ-ULLAH, "the successor of MOSES, of BUDDHA, of ZOROASTER, of JESUS, and of MAHOMET," who died in 1892. He left scriptures which provide for a beautifully eclectic synthesis of the leading cults. The validity of all anterior religions is admitted; the dogmatic differences that have accumulated and bred irreligious dissensions are discarded. The oneness of nature, of the cosmos, is emphasised—all living creatures are "leaves of a single tree, drops of a single ocean." But no, be it noted, members of a single church. It is claimed that the Bahaists are directly responsible for the enlightened reforms in Persia, opposed by the ecclesiastics. It is claimed that the mischievous theory of "caste" is thereby being weakened in India. In Oriental Russia its power has saved Bahaist communities from the notorious troubles afflicting others. In Egypt and Turkey the Bahaists are noted as the most faithful and peaceable of subjects. In Syria, no Bahaist has come forward as a litigant for twenty years. They have a system of ethics and sociology which "never fails to captivate those to whom it is presented." So far as we can gather, its teachings would accord with Taoist and with some Confucian ideals, and no doubt in time it will percolate the Empire. There is room for it, as all the other missionaries seem to make poor progress with their inculcation of brotherly love.

DISREPUTABLE REPORTS.

(Daily Press, May 23rd).

Dirt may be pretty dirt in the eyes of those who like dirt. There are connoisseurs who admire a good lie, a well-told lie. So no doubt there are people who appreciate even such a newspaper as the *New York Herald*, and the extraordinary statements of a Hongkong correspondent which that compounder of sensationalism employs. He is credited with telegraphing that in connection with the boycott the Japanese "enjoy no sympathy at the hands of their British allies. On the contrary," says this unscrupulous commentator speaking for all of us, "the British, while not openly endorsing the boycott, condemn the action of Japan which provoked the Chinese retaliation, and give the movement

moral support." So this precious correspondent of the *New York Herald*, whom we are entertaining in our midst, informs the world that the British in Hongkong are not openly approving the boycott, though they are giving it their moral support. In other words, he alleges that though we admit (by concealing our sympathy) that it is wrong to do so, we are secretly sympathising with and "morally" aiding and abetting the boycotters. On behalf of the British in Hongkong we flatly contradict this; and unhesitatingly say that those who accept their information from the *New York Herald's* correspondent are being misled. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance, though it has had its critics and objectors—some of them men scarcely competent to form a rational opinion on any political question—is not "universally unpopular among the English in the Orient," though the *New York Herald's* representative says it is condemned "not only among commercial men but all classes," including "officers of the Army and Navy." In confirmation of his allegation that British merchants universally disapprove of the renewed alliance, the correspondent quotes four, some of whom, at least, we hope to find protesting that they have been misquoted. Believing that the Alliance was a diplomatic triumph for the British Government, which thereby undoubtedly forestalled another Government, we have no quarrel with individuals who simply profess a contrary opinion. There is no objection to them expressing their opinion that it was a diplomatic or political mistake, though we see no legitimate object to be served by so doing until the question of its renewal comes up again. When, however, a British merchant announces that "the Japanese are lax in every phase of commercial honesty," we are obliged to repudiate all sympathy with such an utterance, and to straightly dissociate ourselves from the utterer. We do not require the protest of Bishop Awdry to the Times (reported in to-day's telegrams) to tell us that such sweeping remarks are discreditable and wicked; common-sense and an idea of perspective, of vraisemblance, proclaims from the housetops that such wholesale slander cannot be warranted. When the prejudiced critics of the Japanese are not wholly vicious they are largely foolish. Asked to give concrete examples of what they complain of, the great majority of them are at a loss; they fall back on puerile generalities; assert that "as everybody says so-and-so it must be true"; and we regret to say that very often, when a real pin-prick is disclosed, it looks like a case of the pot calling the kettle black. It is amusing to find an Indian yarn dealer in Hongkong (certainly not connected with "the leading yarn firm here," by the way) pointing to the fact that Japanese dealers are badly overstocked as a "glaring illustration" of Japanese "purely gambling" methods. It is notorious that the Hongkong dealers have been "badly overstocked," and that in consequence of that fact chiefly the local yarn trade has been demoralised for nearly a couple of years. As conducted in Hongkong, and we daresay anywhere else, the import of yarn for a market like the Chinese necessarily partakes of the gambling element. So with other businesses. It is the last cry we ever expected to arise from a Hongkong business community, that cry of down with gambling; and we protest against it, not so much because of its humbug, but because it makes us look so ridiculous. If the Japanese lottery scheme, to push the sale of their surplus yarn, be within the law, and effective, let our merchants imitate it; but let them not cry out

against it on moral grounds. That is silly, because so flagrantly insincere. As for imitation of trade marks, that is not sufficient to justify the saying that the Japanese are lax in every phase of commercial honesty. We know very well that where it has been legally safe to do so, white men have been doing the same thing for years, here in this Colony, and elsewhere. Yet it would be horribly unjust to say that white men are lax in every phase of commercial honesty. Some excuse is to be found for those who find the shoe of Japanese competition pinching, but we can find no justification for the language with which they vent their feelings. We do hope, however, that the mendacious conceptions of an unscrupulous American reporter to a low-class American newspaper will not be accepted as indicative of the consensus of public opinion in this Colony. British merchants are not giving support, moral or otherwise, to the boycott. They would be fools if they did. Before, it was our American cousins—and then, it will be remembered, we British and others were accused of encouraging it—now it is our Japanese allies—whose turn will it be next? With that question throbbing in our ears, we are not likely to behave so suicidally as to sharpen the weapon that may next be at our own throat.

After the above comments were written and set in type, we were very pleased to see that one of the gentlemen "interviewed" had emphatically denied making such statements. We hope this was the result of loathing the sentiments attributed, and not, as a contemporary clumsily suggests, a fear of consequences. There is no "difference between a private interview and a public declaration," so far as truth and justice are concerned. Honourable men are supposed to be truthful whether speaking for publication or not. It is a pity that an "emphatic repudiation" should have been saddled with such a remarkable statement as this—"We do not believe that British firms here would deliberately wish to estrange any Japanese customers they possess."

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 22nd at the Board Room, to further consider the amended Public Health and Building Ordinance. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. Cusackham (Vice-President), Captain Lyons, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and the following officials—Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. Messer (Secretary).

SUNSHADES AS BUILDINGS.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, referring to section 2 of definition 8, said that sunshades should not be counted as buildings. The definition of building includes any wall and sunshade. He thought the word sunshade should not be included in the building. This would be a hardship on many shopmen as in many cases a sunshade did not cost more than \$6 or \$7, and if that were to be counted as part of the building section 2.2 would apply and the shopmen would probably be required to spend \$25.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—That is not so. Any such requirement would be waived.

Mr. HOOPER—I would ask the press to pay attention to what the Director of Public Works has just said. He will be the sole one to interpret the clauses, and, he says, that in such cases as mentioned by Mr. Lau, the requirement would be waived. It is very important. In these circumstances I am with you.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—In the case of canvas tents put up on lawns belonging to Chinese gentlemen, would the owners have to apply for permission?

Mr. HOOPER—Do you mean if they were attached to the house?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—You mean on lawns attached to ordinary dwelling houses?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Yes.

Mr. HOOPER—If it was attached to the wall of the house it would be a part of the building under this definition.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The definition is intended to apply to sunshades in common use throughout the city. Those things put up in Jervois Street and elsewhere.

Mr. HOOPER—You mean if it is actually fixed?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Yes.

Mr. HOOPER—And not capable of being moved or rolled up?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—As a matter of fact nearly all of them are moveable. The other sunshades were found to interfere with the operations of the Fire Brigade and the sunshades were made with hinges so that they could flap against the wall.

Mr. HOOPER—Should you consider that as part of the building if it is hinged or capable of coming down.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It would come under the definition of building here. The term sunshade comes under this, no matter whether it projects or flaps down.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—We have no definition of sunshade in the Ordinance?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—No.

The PRESIDENT—I think the word defines itself.

Mr. HOOPER—Are you very keen about retaining this word sunshade?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think it ought to stand.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—An umbrella is a sunshade.

Captain LYONS—It is a local term in common use. I don't see any use in quibbling about it.

Mr. HOOPER—You don't know what construction they will put upon it.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK moved the deletion of the word sunshade from the definition of building.

Mr. HOOPER seconded.

On a vote being taken the motion was lost.

THE USE OF CHATTIES.

On considering clause 39 relating to the provision of metal hoods for fire places so as to carry the smoke above the roof,

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—The Chinese use chatties and there are no flues to take away the smoke from the kitchens.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—We get complaints from Chinese that their neighbours have no chimneys in their houses.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—If they have no fire place, will they be required to provide a chimney?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—No.

Hon. Mr. IRVING—If they have a chimney must they have a fireplace?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—No, there is nothing in the Ordinance to say so. It says that every fire place shall be constructed with a proper chimney or smoke flue. I think that is a reasonable requirement.

Hon. Mr. IRVING—You don't interpret these chatties as fireplaces. If a chatty is a fireplace you are not allowed to use one in a room which has not a chimney.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I don't think a chatty can be imagined a fireplace.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I remember some years ago the Chinese were found fault with for using chatties.

The PRESIDENT—All of them have smoke places?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—No.

Hon. Mr. IRVING—I would suggest a proviso that chatty should not be considered as a fireplace within the meaning of the section.

Captain LYONS—You want to get rid of chatties?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—How can you?

Captain LYONS—Don't you want to get rid of chatties in time?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Each man cooks his own food and they must use chatties. A proviso should be made that, where chatties are used, they should not be compelled to have flues.

Hon. Mr. IRVING—I propose that the word fireplace shall not include a chatty.

The PRESIDENT—Suppose you have half a dozen there will be more smoke from them than from an ordinary fireplace.

Hon. Mr. IRVING—We don't want to recast the whole Chinese cooking arrangement in drafting this section. We must consider them.

A motion to the effect indicated was proposed by Hon. Mr. IRVING, and seconded by Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, and carried.

IMPROVING INSANITARY AREAS.

The Board proceeded to consider section 153. "153a. Whenever the Board on the representation of the medical officer of health or of any assistant medical officer of health is satisfied that any of the rooms in any block of domestic buildings are so dark as to be dangerous or prejudicial to the health of the inmates, the Board may apply in writing to the Governor-in-Council to undertake the demolition of all storeys above the lowermost storey of every third building in such block, and to provide additional windows for such of the buildings as are allowed to remain, or the carrying out of such other works as the Board may deem necessary to render such buildings healthy, and the Government may thereupon carry out such work, and the amount of compensation to be paid to the owners of such buildings as are demolished wholly or in part shall be determined by arbitration in the manner provided by Sections 251 to 254 inclusive of this Ordinance.

The cost of any such improvement scheme may be recovered by the Government from the owners of the buildings which are benefitted thereby by the levying of a special "improvement rate" which shall not exceed seven per cent. of the capital outlay and shall be payable for a period not exceeding thirty years."

Mr. HOOPER—This is one of the most important sections in the ordinance affecting property to the extent of millions by enabling the Government, if they consider that a certain property is dark or insanitary, to pull down the upper storeys of every third house. From a sanitary point of view, I think this is bad. If they pulled down every third house it would be a different matter, but leaving the ground floor will make it liable to become very insanitary. It will make a well which will be very objectionable. Speaking on behalf of those interested in property I don't think we have much objection because the Government will have to compensate the owner of the property demolished, but the second part of the section, if carried, will not reduce the value of property in the Colony but will drive capital out of the Colony. To-day the Chinese particularly are very chary about investing money in house property because they don't know where they stand. They have lost confidence in the Government, because they don't know when the Government is going to introduce fresh sanitary and building laws which will discount the value of their property. Take this case. A house is to be pulled down in the Queen's Road. Compensation has to be paid to the owner. It is to be raised by a rate levied on the owners of the adjoining property who will benefit by the demolition of the other property. They will have more light and more fresh air but the owner will be called upon to pay for this improvement by a rate which will become a permanent charge on that property for perhaps 30 years and not exceeding seven per cent. A man who bought property would have no confidence that the Government in pulling down some other property would not create a charge on his property. There was another class of investor who will have no confidence—the mortgagee. We know that the cash transactions on buildings here could not take place unless there had been people to assist with mortgages. Then there are people at home who send out money to invest in property. Their security will be discounted to such an extent that they will hesitate in future to invest. That is a retrograde step for the Government to take, affecting owners, affecting mortgagees and also affecting the Government because it will reduce the annual value of property, thereby producing less rates and they will also have difficulty in finding a market for their land.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It forms one of the recommendations of the Cubicle Committee.

Mr. HOOPER—What is your view on the points I have raised?

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded Mr. Hooper's motion for the deletion of the second paragraph. He

said that if such a charge devolved on property as indicated by Mr. Hooper property would become more or less unsaleable. He would like to ask the President whether it was contemplated doubling or trebling the staff of inspectors in the Colony because every one of the roofs of the third houses would become a receptacle for all sorts of rubbish thrown from the adjoining houses. As regards compensation it was proposed to make the landlords pay towards the compensation which he received. That was no compensation at all. If the measures were sanitary measures for the good of the community then the community as a whole ought to pay and not individual landlords.

The VICE-PRESIDENT explained that if that scheme were carried out—the demolition of every third house—there would be greater accommodation in the remaining houses and as the landlords of those remaining houses benefitted it was suggested that they should contribute towards the cost of the improvement. That was one of the recommendations of the Cubicle Committee.

CAPTAIN LYONS said the fact of a greater number of people being accommodated in the remaining houses would lead to overcrowding.

Mr. HOOPER said the game was not worth the candle. If the Government attempted such a scheme they would find the remaining houses come tumbling down like a pack of cards.

The motion was carried.

A QUESTION OF JUSTICE.

On the question of the owner agreeing to put in a scavenging lane without compensation and a memorandum to invest such lane in the crown should be registered without the consent of the mortgagee being necessary,

Mr. HOOPER said the rights of the mortgagee were always recognised in law.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thought they were getting away from their duties as a Sanitary Board.

Mr. HOOPER replied that he would not be dictated to in that way. The Government sent the Bill to them for their observations and the Colonial Secretary had sent him a copy of the amended bill. That was the only place he had of addressing the Government and while the members of the Board may not attach much weight to his remarks, yet they rescued the Governor and the public learned what their representatives said about it. It might not be agreeable to the parties concerned, but he was going to proceed until called to order by the President. Mr. Hooper then stated his objection to such a condition as the consent of the mortgagee not being necessary, and described it as not in accord with English justice that the mortgagee should not be consulted.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded the motion for the deletion of that part.

The motion was carried.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

PROTEST BY THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting held on Saturday the 16th inst:—

"The Committee of the Chamber record their strong protest against any arbitrary orders from the Imperial Government to close immediately the Opium divans in Hongkong.

"The Committee of this Chamber is entirely sympathetic towards all reasonable bona-fide efforts for the mitigation of the abuse of opium but is of the opinion that any action having for its object the immediate suppression of the sale and use of opium in Hongkong will have serious effects on the economic conditions here and lead to disastrous results to the Colony's prosperity unless similar action is enforced in China.

"It is therefore resolved to request the Hongkong Government to inform the Imperial Government that any hasty and ill-considered action taken in this matter to the detriment of the interests of this Colony will be generally resented, but that on the other hand a policy of gradual reduction similar in its action to the Imperial Government's agreement with India will be loyally supported."

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 15th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISHONOURED CHEQUE.

S. D. Hickie, trading as the China Express Company, brought an action against H. S. Holmes, trading as H. S. Holmes and Co., 54 Queen's Road Central for \$130, being the amount of a cheque drawn by the defendant in favour of the plaintiff, for freight, and which on presentation was returned unanswered. Mr. S. Dixon from the office of Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff. Defendant did not enter an appearance.

Sydney Douglas Hickie said he represented the China Express Company. His claim was originally for \$130.40 for freight, but defendant had since paid \$40 and he was now suing for \$90.40. The cheque produced was the one which had been dishonoured.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff for the amount asked.

NOT A COURT OF APPEAL.

His Honour referring to the issue as to whether Ng Kau Shang, one of the partners of the Yuen On Company, had any authority to give notice to creditors of the firm's intention to suspend payment of debts, said he had come to the conclusion that he had no power to deal with it.

Mr. P. W. Goldring agreed to the suggestion of his Honour to apply to the Bankruptcy Court.

Monday, 18th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

ROBBERY.

Three Chinese were charged with assaulting Tsung Tsai Poi and stealing from him the sum of \$4, a kettle, clock, and various other articles. The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies), instructed by Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and defendants were undefended.

The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. J. Cruickshank, E. C. Lane, E. T. M. Marcenaro, J. O. Sheppard, R. H. M. Reuter, A. W. Lamperski, and T. Shand.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case for the prosecution, said that on the 27th March, the three men approached the house of the complainant who keeps an opium shop at Pun Hang and knocked at the door. He went in answer, taking a lamp with him, but no sooner had he opened the door than the lamp was snatched from him by the first accused and the first and second men followed this up by putting a bag over his head and tying his hands and feet. They threatened to burn him unless he told them where his money was. He told them and they ransacked the house taking the four dollars and a number of other articles. When they went away complainant succeeded in liberating himself and sent his daughter to the police while he himself went to the temple where he saw the priest, Sergt. Clark visited the house and found it in a state of disorder. A few days later he went to Tapmun where he saw the first defendant in a boat and the second on the shore close by. He arrested them both and in the bottom of the boat were found a number of articles which had been taken from the house of the complainant. On April 6th the police went to the house of the third accused at Tapmun and arrested him. Three other things which complainant recognised as his property were found.

The jury found the first and second prisoners guilty on both counts, but as regards the third prisoner the jury were not unanimous, four being for conviction and three for acquittal. As the majority has to be five to two the prisoner was discharged, his Lordship expressing his agreement with the jury. The other prisoners were sentenced to three years hard labour.

Wednesday, 20th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR
FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The three men Wong Chin Kwai, Tse Mau Fat and Wong Sam Ho, who are charged with the murder of three Chinese near Shatin on December, 1906, were arraigned on the capital charge. The Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C. (Attorney General), instructed by Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, conducted the prosecution, and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, appeared for the defence.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. Isaac S. Perry, J. C. Sheppard, James T. Shaw, W. Taylor, W. E. Rose, W. J. Eldridge, and A. A. H. Milroy.

The Attorney-General, in outlining the case for the prosecution, said that the three prisoners at the bar were there to stand their trial for the wilful murder of two men and a boy at Kun Yam Sang on the 2nd December, 1906. The case throws a burning light on human action and discloses a crime rarely equalled in its brutality. Luk Sang, one of the deceased, was a man aged about 31. He had been a cabin steward on various ships sailing under the American flag on the Pacific and finally was on the "Minnesota." He seemed to have had plenty of money as compared with his relations and in August of 1906 he stayed at home, living with his wife and mother at Kowloon city where he had a house. Luk Sang was a native of the Hakka village of Kun Yam Sang near Junk Bay and his wife was also a Hakka. Luk Sang's father was buried at Lau Tan, but his grandfather was buried at Kowloon city which was not regarded as a proper grave from a Chinese point of view. During his holiday Luk Sang spent some time in repairing his father's grave and in looking for a suitable site for a grave for his grandfather. As they knew the Chinese attached a great deal of importance to discovering suitable graves for the repose of their dead. This element was a very prominent one in this particular case. He engaged Wong Sam San, the other murdered man, to repair his father's grave. This man, who was a relative of his, was a farmer and in addition to farming he made graves. It would be well known to them also that there was a class of men known as geomancers, who professed to be versed in the science of fengshui, and were experts in selecting graves. The second prisoner, Tse Mau Fat, was also a geomancer. He was acquainted with Luk Sang and wished the latter to employ him as a geomancer in connection with the graves but Luk Sang declined to do so. From the evidence it appeared that between 15th Oct., 1906, and Nov., 1906, the second accused went to Luk Sang's house and tried to persuade him to engage him in reference to the selection of the grave, at the same time demanding several tens of dollars, and adding that if he was not allowed to do the work Luk Sang's head would fall off within 70 days. His final words were "If not I will throw away my compass and leave Kowloon city." The most valuable instrument of the geomancer's calling is a Chinese compass covered with astrological signs. Shortly after this the second prisoner concocted a scheme for the robbery of Luk Sang. The evidence on this point depended mainly upon the confession of Chan Yu who admitted having taken part in the murder and who had turned King's evidence. His evidence, corroborated as it was by material facts, was relied upon by the prosecution. This man stated that in autumn of 1906 he was working as a blacksmith on a new military road behind Kowloon City but in addition he dealt in illicit opium in his matchbox which was a suitable place for smoking opium and was patronised by a number of people. The prisoners met at that shed to smoke opium during the autumn of 1906 and on the 28th November the three prisoners went there between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning and they asked him to join them on an expedition to make money. He agreed, and the second accused told him they would call for him on the 2nd December. On the 1st there was a

feast in the house of a relative of the deceased man, Luk Sang, and his wife went there. Prior to this Luk Sang had spent some time in looking for a suitable site for his grandfather's grave, and the second accused had asked to accompany him on those excursions. About four o'clock on the afternoon of the feast the first prisoner, who lived at Kun Yam Sang, asked Luk Sang to go over the hills with him to a certain place. He knew that Luk Sang carried a revolver and had previously asked him to give it to him which Luk Sang had refused to do. Luk Sang's wife, seeing that her husband had been drinking somewhat, tried to persuade him not to go, especially as it was getting dark, but the first prisoner pressed him to go as the business was urgent. He would accompany him over the hills, he said, and bring him back to Kowloon city. Luk Sang then got his wife to hand him 30 Mexican dollars and the two men left the house. When Luk Sang left the house he had, besides the money, a watch and chain, a diamond ring, and a revolver in his pocket. The men went to the house of a cousin of Luk Sang's and there he stayed the night at Kun Yam Sang. After breakfast he went out accompanied by the two sons of his host. When the latter, who is a farmer, returned home for the midday meal his sons were not there but in the evening the younger son returned. The widow of the deceased man Wong Sam San would tell them that Luk Sang visited her that day along with the two boys and after the midday meal Luk Sang, her husband and the boys went off. It appeared that Luk Sang wanted the boys to return home, but the elder declined. The younger went home to his father. All three went up the hill. Behind the village of Kun Yam Sang is a prominent hill, a favourite resort of the villagers, and a likely place for a grave site. The trio went in the direction of this peak. Having traced their movements so far the prosecution had now to rely on the evidence of the accomplice, who admitted that he was a party to the dastardly crime, but whose testimony he would ask them to accept, as it was corroborated by material facts. The three prisoners met at 11 o'clock at this man's shed to smoke opium and after smoking they said they were going to make money. The second prisoner explained that if Luk Sang was caught, there would be over \$100. They persuaded the informer to accompany them. The theory of the prosecution was that the quartette walked about the hills above and behind Kun Yam Sang until they saw Luk Sang approach, the other two walking behind him. The first prisoner asked Luk Sang to show them the grave site he had selected. He agreed to do so and he had no sooner turned aside than the second prisoner said "lay hands on him." The four men caught him from behind and the second prisoner hit him on the head with a chopper and struck him on various parts of the body so severely that he died almost immediately. Apparently Wong Sam San ran to his rescue but he was caught and similarly treated. The small boy was standing some little distance off crying for help and while the first and third prisoners searched the bodies for booty the second prisoner killed the little boy also. Chan Yu would tell them that he found \$30 on Luk Sang and took possession of them while the others took the watch and chain, the ring and other things. The informer becoming frightened ran away and after proceeding some distance he took off his blood stained jacket and threw it into a stream. He then returned to the matchbox and afterwards left for his home in China. He did not return until the 21st February this year apparently thinking the matter had then blown over; but on the 28th March from information received the police arrested him at Kowloon city. When the farmer found that his son did not return he searched the hills and ultimately came upon the three bodies lying close together and the police were informed. The post mortem examination showed that death in each case must have been instantaneous and that the wounds were such as might have been inflicted by a chopper. Naturally the murder caused a great deal of excitement but the police were unable to discover any clue but from information subsequently received they arrested Chan Yu, the informer, and afterwards the three prisoners were simultaneously arrested. In a box in the first

May 25, 1908.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

329

prisoner's house were a watch and chain which the widow recognised as belonging to Luk Sang but which he declared had been given him by his brother three years ago.

Evidence was then called. The hearing is likely to be a most protracted one as there are about 25 witnesses for the prosecution and as many for the defence. Case adjourned.

Thursday, 21st May.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The Court was engaged all day yesterday in the trial of the three Chinese for the triple murder near Shatin in December of 1906. The prosecution by yesterday afternoon had called about ten witnesses, but more than double that number is yet to be heard.

The most interesting man in the box yesterday was Chan Yau, who formed one of the party alleged to have killed the three people, and who turned King's evidence.

The informer, who looked very unhappy during his examination, said in reply to questions by the Attorney-General that on the 2nd December the three prisoners came to his matched and smoked opium. The second prisoner suggested that they should make a fortune and he asked how, to which the prisoner replied "If Luk Sang is caught there will be over \$100." The first prisoner remarked "it is good for you to go," and witness made answer that he was not strong enough. The first prisoner then said "If you were to work here for two months you would not make so much," to which he replied, "Very well, you go first. I will follow." All four then went up the hill, and when they caught sight of Luk Sang they agreed to walk on and pretend to be merely taking a walk. Witness had been instructed to say to Luk Sang "I hear you have selected a good grave site: will you show it to me." Accordingly when they came up to Luk Sang and his two companions witness put this question and Luk Sang replied "Very good: I will take you round. As they turned to go, the second prisoner called out "Lay hands on him." Witness, the first prisoner, and the third caught hold of Luk Sang. Witness was not strong enough to hold him. The second prisoner struck Luk Sang on the head from behind with a knife. He struck three blows and the man fell to the ground. Wong Sam Su, who saw what happened, ran up to where Luk Sang had fallen and tried to seize hold of witness and the prisoners. The first prisoner called out "Seize him; fight with him." The first and third prisoners and witness caught him, and the second prisoner dealt him a blow with a knife and chopped him to death. The first and third prisoners and witness searched Luk Sang's body. While they were doing this the boy was crying and shouting out "Save life," and the second prisoner went up and killed him. Witness did not see how he was killed. Afterwards he asked the first and third prisoners if they had found anything, and the latter replied that he had found a watch, a gold finger ring and two bank notes of \$5. Witness found on Luk Sang three rolls of 20 cent pieces but told the others that he had found \$2 only. Becoming frightened he ran back to his matched, on the way throwing his bloodstained jacket into a stream, and afterwards he went into the country. On the day of the murder he saw a knife in Chin Mau Fats' sleeve and the others carried a small stick each. When he returned to the Colony he was entrapped. He was asked to meet a sergeant at the Police Station and was asked to stay there at the expense of the police. Afterwards he found he was under arrest.

Cross-examined by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—He did not know the name of the man who employed him at that time and he knew the names of very few of the other men in the matched.

Hearing adjourned.

DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR
OF MACAO.

THE ADDRESS PRESENTED TO HIS
EXCELLENCY.

The following is a translation of the Address presented to H.E. Senhor Pedro de Azevedo Coutinho, Governor of the Colony of Macao:—

"When the Leal Senado imagined that various problems affecting the prosperity of this Colony were rapidly approaching solution; when it was thought that progress was shortly to be made with the work of sanitation in the Chinese district; when the Senado was convinced that the harbour works in connection with the projected railway to Canton would soon be undertaken; and the construction of the gaol and other equally necessary works would be accomplished; when it was hoped that with the beginning of the next school year the higher class schools would be so improved as to meet the special needs of the Colony; when it was known that a careful revision of the new regulations in regard to industrial taxes and fees with a view to benefitting commerce and industry was almost completed;—when the entire community entertained hopes of seeing all these undertakings accomplished by your Excellency, making fresh and rich blood to course through the arteries of the Colony, giving it life, energy, prosperity and joy; when we had already begun to dream of a future so full of happiness for this Colony, a future which would demonstrate to the Far East that the Portuguese of to-day have not lost that knowledge of colonisation of which their ancestors gave proof; when the inhabitants of Macao are just beholding a greater future... alas! the news that you are relinquishing the post spreads with regret over the town.

"The disappointment suffered by the whole Colony could not be greater!

"The regret felt by all could not be deeper!

"The Leal Senado who knew so well of your Excellency's superhuman efforts, during the year of your governorship, for the realization of all these projects on which the fate of Macao depends, and to which your Excellency has devoted the best of your intelligence, persevering with pure love in this holy crusade for the betterment of Macao, cannot but most deeply regret your sudden retirement.

"But the Leal Senado cannot forget and will remember with sincere gratitude your assiduous study of these problems and your persevering work towards the realisation of the bright dream of a prosperous Macao.

"Fate has not permitted your Excellency to see the accomplishment of this beautiful ideal, but we shall ever remember the example of your governorship as a model, the most complete, of honesty, honour, and devoted love of work and justice, which all—governing and governed alike—may profitably study.

"The Leal Senado and the people of Macao, fulfilling their duty in this most simple but impressive manner, do hereby signify their sincere gratitude to your Excellency for your devoted application to the problem of enhancing the prosperity and happiness of the Colony.

"With deep gratitude from the people of Macao—as sincere and enduring as ever were the sentiments of the inhabitants of the City of the Holy Name of God of Macao—There is no other more loyal."

His Excellency and family left Hongkong on May 16th by the steamer "Asia," proceeding home via America.

INTERESTING DISCLOSURES.

An occasional contributor (not our regular correspondent) writes as follows from Macao, on the 17th inst.—

As none of the Hongkong papers seem to have gathered the correct facts, and incidents which occasioned the Governor of Macao's abrupt departure from this Colony, the follow-

ing facts—which I have every reason to believe are absolutely authentic—may be of interest to you and your readers.

The first of a series of quibbles with the Home Government—as far as I can ascertain—arose through the Governor desiring to give an officer (Capt. Miranda) a special gratuity, for extra services rendered to the local Government, but which the Home Government refused to sanction.

The second quibble was in consequence of His Excellency appointing the second interpreter of the Government Offices, to the post of chief interpreter, on the death of the old chief, without consulting the Home Government, or putting the post up to public competition according to law. As a matter of fact, since 1842 the Governor for the time being has exercised the right of making all minor appointments in the Government service, without reference Home.

His Excellency also wished to abrogate the law in reference to dealing in arms and ammunition and to cancel the licenses already granted to certain dealers, but did not consider that it was a proper time to go into the matter owing to the agitation occasioned by the "Ta'su Maru" incident, and considered that it would be showing a sign of weakness to the Chinese, if the law was amended and the licenses cancelled just at this time.

But in the meantime the Portuguese Minister in Peking had been moving in the matter—unknown to Senhor Coutinho, the Governor—and urging the Home Government to immediately stop the importation of arms into Macao. Senhor Coutinho was communicated with on the matter and asked to give his opinion. He replied that it would be foolish to move in the matter for at least a few months yet or at least until the "Tatsu Maru" excitement had quieted down, but to his surprise he received an urgent telegram, to the following effect:—

"Cancel gratuity to Captain Miranda; cancel appointment of interpreter and have public examination and competition for post; cancel at once all licences to import arms." Or words to the above effect.

His Excellency at once wired back "Absolutely refuse all three, accept herewith my resignation." Or words to that effect.

Another squabble with the Home Government, was over the amount of money which had to be sent to Timor. On one occasion he received a wire to send an amount which exceeded the yearly grant from Macao to Timor, and I understand he refused to send the money, as Timor had already received all she was entitled to, and money was badly required in Macao for public works. On this occasion, I understand, His Excellency also tendered his resignation.

His Excellency did not pay for his own as well as his wife and family's passage home, out of his own pocket. It is true he did not ask the local Government to pay, but when the Colonial Treasurer (Inspector of Finances) handed him his tickets, he accepted them.

His Excellency seems to have borne a very good name amongst the Portuguese here; but the fact cannot be hidden that, during the time of his administration, things in Macao have gone from bad to worse. Half of the Fan-tan houses have been closed, and of course, half their revenue lost. The Lottery has been entirely smashed up, owing to the greed of somebody in authority; about half the Chinese population have left the Colony, and now, practically our sole remaining industry, the Silk Spinning Works, employing hundreds of women and children, is closed, and for good, owing to trouble with the Government Officials. And all this has happened in Senhor Coutinho's time, so that his administration of the Government cannot in any way be deemed a success.

Instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Finance to Viceroys and Governors throughout the Empire that they may introduce whatever reforms they may please in their provinces, but with the proviso that no foreign loans shall be contracted to bring about the reforms in question.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, May 23rd.

SIR,—I have just received the enclosed letter from Kobe. I have been requested to forward it to you for insertion.

I would like to point out that the criticisms contained therein apply to the Bill as it appeared in its second stage, that is to say in its form when privately circulated to members of Council and others for consideration, after the interview of the Architects with H.E. the Governor.—I am yours truly.

H. W. BIRD.

SIR,—As is well known His Excellency the Governor invited us with Mr. Denison to consult with the Government upon the various amendments suggested in our reports to the property owners upon the Public Health and Building Ordinance 1908. After two long interviews several of our recommendations were agreed to in principle.

When we saw the amendments printed and read the speech of the Hon. Director of Public Works in proposing the 2nd reading of the bill we found that, while some of our suggestions had been adopted, the wording of other amendments was such as to alter their meaning from that which we understood had been agreed to. In addition other fresh clauses have been inserted which we had no opportunity of commenting upon. Some of these are of vital importance and we think it advisable to take this means of drawing attention to them.

Definition 26. "External Air." This stands in the printed amendments as originally drafted, but the Hon. Director of Public Works in his speech moving the second reading of the bill states "It is proposed to withdraw the new definition because it would operate rather harshly upon parties who wish to erect a building of moderate height, who happen to have opposite to this proposed building another of much greater height belonging to some neighbouring owner."

The reason given is not correct. In "objects and reasons" attached to the bill, it is clearly indicated that the proposed amendment is introduced for improving the condition of existing buildings.

All new buildings irrespective of height have to be provided with an open space equal to one third of the roofed area of the building and the kitchen cannot extend across more than one half of the width of the building; in addition to the above open space at least another 3 feet has to be provided towards forming a scavenging lane, therefore it is not possible under these conditions to erect a new building, whatever its height, without providing sufficient open space in the rear to constitute "external air;" the question cannot arise with regard to the front as no new lane can be less than 15 ft. in width, therefore the owner of a building of moderate height would in no way be affected by his neighbour's building, however high it might be.

At one interview with His Excellency there was considerable discussion on this definition. All the architects agreed it was an improvement on the old one and we understood His Excellency concurred, saying that it seemed to him impossible to frame one that would meet all cases.

A few days later we were asked to meet the Hon. Director of Public Works, when he said he was not satisfied with the definition and submitted another. We however unanimously declined to approve this, which he said would prove to be a hard-hip upon the owner of the high building and, if an exemption could not be obtained with regard to the low one, there would be less difficulty in adapting the latter to the law.

Sec. 32. It is now proposed to delete the word "hereafter" making the section retrospective; this will necessitate the removal of all existing soffits of staircases and further harass the Chinese property owners, who were congratulating themselves that the end of these small worries had been reached.

Sec. 41. Sec. 151 (1). The wording of this was agreed as far as the word "Storey" on line 7; the remainder has since been added.

If a storey is lighted as provided by the section it must be "adequately lit" and we see no reason for giving the Building Authority power to require windows to be placed in positions where the owner does not require them.

Sec. 15 (3). The words "without reduction in Crown Rent" have been deleted as promised, but the words "and such land shall upon the payment of such compensation revert to the Crown and be deemed to have been resumed" are now deleted from the original section the result being that the owner cannot build on land which he bought for that purpose and has to continue paying Crown Rent as if it were building land, on the higher scale.

Sec. 42. Sec. 153. There was a good deal of discussion on this amendment. The Hon. Colonial Secretary made a point that amendments 42, 43 and 44 carried out the recommendations of the Cubicle Committee which reported in Aug. 1907, but Dr. Ho Kai who was present corrected him, and said that as a member of the Committee he could assure him that the Committee did not intend their recommendations to be construed in this way.

42. (2.) The proposed amendment does not fulfil the promise made, the meaning remains the same. Our objection was to the Building Authority having power to plan the arrangement of a storey; we would suggest that all the word after "the" in line 9 be deleted and insert in place thereof "provision to each proposed subdivision of every storey of a window or skylights hereinbefore required." This leaves him all necessary power to require adequate lighting, while leaving the owner discretion as to plan. The Hon. Director of Public Works in his speech states "in connection with that clause it is proposed to introduce an amendment with regard to houses on the reclamation, but it will be limited to houses not exceeding 100 feet in depth." There is no such amendment on the print for second reading and it seems to us to be just as much an infringement of the Praya Reclamation agreement as interfering with a house 50 feet deep.

43. Owners should be given the option of doing the work of demolishing the upper floors of every third house themselves; if done by Government it will cost a great deal more and take longer.

We understood the clause referring to payment was to be re-drafted; as it stands, the improvement rate may be 7 on the capital outlay which may be imposed for 30 years. We suggest that the improvement rate be at a rate of interest so as not to extend the period of repayment beyond 30 years, or 7 per cent for 15 years.

47 (4). In the past scavenging lanes have been formed, without any claim for compensation, as the owner has seen that, at some future date, he might require to re-develop the property in a different way and if the land be cut up by scavenging lanes which have become vested in the Crown any new scheme would be seriously interfered with. If the owner is willing to form the lane without compensation, there is no reason for taking his land from him.

Sec. 180. We understood that a proviso was to be considered whereby a right of way should be counted as part of the open space; there is no indication of this on the draft under s.s. (f) the open space at the side may be built over, but if it happens to be a right of way, the Building Authority at present contends, it cannot be counted as open space.

New. 184. Deletion of the words "other than a godown, &c.," makes the section require 15 ft. lanes for godowns; we do not see any need for the alteration.

64 (1) Proviso. The word "any" in line 4 should be changed to every; we were distinctly promised this and on this understanding the time was made 28 days.

(3) If this is to stand the whole object of submitting plans is nullified and it is only wasting time to submit them.

265B. This a serious innovation affecting the interests of mortgagees; we have known of instances in which Government have only granted verandah permits on the condition the ground on the rear of the premises was surrendered to the Crown. Owner cannot do this

at present without consulting mortgagee who is then in the position to protect his own interests.

269. The power of the Building Authority is to be very largely extended, practically the only appeal from his decision is to the Governor in Council and as the Building Authority as Director of Public Works has a seat on the Council, he will be in a position to give undue weight to his opinion, when the final decision (from which there is no appeal) is being arrived at.

The inconsistency of the proposed position is shown by referring to Section 43, under which in certain cases Government will have the power to demolish the upper floors of every third house. The work of doing so will be carried out under the Building Authority; in carrying out this work it is quite possible the adjoining houses may collapse or otherwise be injured and although the Building Authority may be to blame, the owners will have no remedy at law against him, the cost of rebuilding these premises will be included in the cost of the improvement scheme and they themselves will have to pay it, in the form of the improvement rate extending over a number of years.

We have known cases where delay and negligence on the part of the Building Authority has caused serious loss to individuals; we have also known the Government use the powers invested in the Building Authority to try to impose terms on an owner with reference to another matter outside the Building Ordinance.

As such cases have happened before there is no reason why they should not happen again and if the only remedy is an appeal to the Governor in Council, we have grave doubts as its proving satisfactory.

In cases of wrongdoing on the part of a Government official, there is no just reason for taking from the injured party his remedy at law.

As regards disputes (which must arise) in construing the reading of the Ordinance we think Mr. Pollock's proposal of a simple method of taking the decision of the Supreme Court is the only one which will give general satisfaction.—Yours, &c.,

ARTHUR H. OUGH
ARTHUR TURNER.R.M.S.S. "Empress of Japan,"
13th May 1908.PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS
ORDINANCE.

AN EXPLANATION.

It has been stated during the various discussions that have taken place upon the proposed new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance that the section dealing with the proposition to pull down every third house in certain districts was inserted on the recommendation of the "Cubicle Committee," the inference perhaps being that the "Cubicle Committee" made a unanimous recommendation to that effect. Our attention is called to the fact that in this particular respect the recommendation was not unanimous; and one member of the committee—Mr. E. A. Ram—dissented strongly from it in a postscript which he added to the report to the following effect: "With regard to paragraph 9, I am unable to agree with the report. My personal experience in executing works upon old Chinese buildings leads me to believe that it will be in a great number of cases, for structural reasons, impracticable, or only practicable at the expenses of what would amount to rebuilding. These costly works, however provided for, must lead to a considerable increase of rent, to be paid for out of the meagre earnings of the coolie and artisan classes, and I am not satisfied that the community—and especially the poorer Chinese section of it—will profit proportionately by this further increase of the cost of living here."

At the Magistracy on May 20th Sergeant Gordon prosecuted a native for having killed a deer on Lantau Island. There are plenty deer on the island and the natives are known to hunt them with dogs. In this case the officer could only speak to the defendant having sold the meat at Dumb Bell Island. he could not prove that defendant had killed the animal. Mr. Wood dismissed the summons.

VICTORIA GAOL.

The report of the Superintendent of Prison, for the year 1907 states:

1. The number of prisoners received into prison during the year and the corresponding numbers for the year 1906 were as follows:—

	1907.	1906.
Convicted by Ordinary Courts...	5,027	5,049
Convicted by Courts Martial ...	9	19
Convicted by the Land Courts ...	1	1
Convicted by the Sanitary Commission ...	—	1
Convicted by the Captain Superintendent of Police ...	6	2
Convicted by the Commodore R.N. ...	1	—
Supreme Court for China and Corea ...	6	3
Debtors ...	94	71
On remand or in default of finding surety ...	733	653
	5,877	5,799

There was thus an increase of 78 on the total number of admissions as compared with the year 1906. There was also an increase of prisoners convicted for larceny during the year under review, the numbers being 963 against 818 for the previous year.

The above figures show that 66 per cent. of the total admissions to prison were for non-criminal offences.

2. The number of prisoners admitted to prison for offences not of a criminal nature was 3,417 made up as follows:—

Convicted by Courts Martial ...	9
" " the Land Courts ...	1
" " Captain Superintendent of Police ...	6
Convicted by the Commodore, R.N. ...	1
Debtors ...	94
Convicted under the Opium Ordinance ...	1,024
" " Gambling Ordinance ...	440
" " Market Ordinance ...	482
" " Arms Ordinance ...	12
" " Vehicle Ordinance ...	52
" " Sanitary Bye-laws ...	182
" " Harbour Regulations ...	88
" " for Drunkenness ...	35
" " Trespassing ...	63
" " Disorderly Conduct ...	287
" " Vagrancy ...	13
" " Contempt of Court ...	4
" " Assault ...	169
" " Obstruction ...	16
" " Cutting trees ...	44
" " Fighting ...	34
" " Mendicancy ...	19
" " under the Post Office Ordinance ...	5
" " for Rogue and Vagabond ...	222
" " under the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance ...	25

Total ... 3,417

3. The following Table shows the number of prisoners committed to prison without the option of fine and in default of payment of fine:—

Without option of fine.	Served the imprisonment.	Paid full fine.	Paid part fine.	Total.
1,599	1,936	856	658	5,049

4. There were 106 juveniles admitted into prison 31 of whom were sentenced to be whipped in addition to various terms of imprisonment varying from twenty-four hours' detention to one month's imprisonment with hard labour. There was an increase of 25 juveniles convicted during the year 1907, as compared with the year 1906.

5. The percentage of convicted prisoners admitted to prison with previous convictions recorded against them was 15.00 as compared with 13.00 for 1906.

6. There were 141 prisoners admitted who were convicted by the Magistrates' Courts in the New Territories against 152 for the previous year.

7. The following table shows the number of convicts confined in Victoria Gaol on the 31st December for the past ten years, and the percentage borne by this number to the estimated population:—

Year	No. of Convicts	Percentage to Estimated Population.
1898...	55	.21
1899...	96	.027

1900...	141	.040
1901...	180	.046
1902...	25	.54
1903...	24	.059
1904...	243	.054
1905...	216	.046
1906...	156	.037
1907...	146	.035

8. The following table shows the daily average number of prisoners undergoing imprisonment during the past ten years and the percentage borne by this number to the estimated population of the colony of Hongkong:—

Year	Estimated Population	Daily Average number of Prisoners	Percentage.
1898...	254,400	511	.200
1899...	344,323	432	.125
1900...	347,689	486	.139
1901...	385,671	499	.129
1902...	396,835	576	.145
1903...	410,642	653	.159
1904...	446,217	726	.162
1905...	462,861	697	.150
1906...	414,449	518	.121
1907...	414,413	502	.125

9. There were 755 punishments awarded for breach of prison discipline, being an average of 1.50 per prisoner as compared with 627 with an average per prisoner of 1.21 for the preceding year. There were four cases in which corporal punishment was awarded during the year. Three of which were with the birch sentenced by the Assistant Superintendent alone and one with the cat-o'-nine-tails sentenced by the same Officer in conjunction with a Justice of the Peace.

10. There were no escapes or attempt to escape.

11. In the month of January a Chinese prisoner employed in the Coir-matting shop assaulted a fellow prisoner with a mat-making knife for which he was subsequently sentenced to a further period of two years' imprisonment.

12. There were 14 deaths from natural causes, 3 executions and one birth. Eleven prisoners were released on medical grounds.

13. Owing to the low number of prisoners in custody and the extra accommodation afforded by the branch prison it has again been possible to strictly carry out the prison rules as regards the complete separation of remands, juveniles and debtors from convicted prisoners, also keep apart first convicted prisoners from habitual criminals thereby bringing our prison system into line with the England prison service.

14. Prisoners employed at industrial labour were fully employed during the year and the output was quite satisfactory.

15. There were 4,169,624 forms printed and issued to the various Government Departments and 22,342 books bound and repaired during the year under review.

16. The rules and regulations for the government of the prison have been duly carried out.

17. The sanitary condition of the prison is good.

18. All minor repairs to the gaol have been carried out by prison labour.

19. Mr. F. J. Badeley handed over his duties as Superintendent to me on proceeding to England on 12 months' leave of absence on the 5th September.

20. The conduct of the staff has been good

21. The usual returns are appended.

F. W. LYONS,
Superintendent.

14th January, 1908.

At Ningyuenfu, West China, the hillmen are on the warpath after three years of comparative peace. The new Prefect seemed anxious for a fray and sent about 250 soldiers to punish a refractory tribe. But the expedition met with disaster; twenty soldiers were killed or captured, while one small gun and about ten repeating rifles were taken by the hillmen. The soldiers enjoy a bad reputation. In a night raid on a hill settlement they succeeded in burning a few houses, killing the women children and old men who could not protect themselves or get away. It was only after their return home from this murderous attack that the hillmen sought revenge. The Chinese authorities are now collecting and enlisting soldiers, while the hillmen are preparing for defence.

THE WORK OF THE POST OFFICE.

The report of the Post Office Department, for the year 1907, states:

STAFF.

1 The staff of the Hongkong General Post Office including that at Kowloon and the Western Branch consists of 74 staff, clerks, and sorters, and 99 postmen, messengers and launch crew.

2 Of the higher officers Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, the Postmaster General, was on leave from March 23rd until December 31st, and Mr. T. H. Martin, Superintendent of the Registration Department, was on leave from July 31st until the end of the year. Mr. E. C. Lewis, the Assistant Postmaster General, returned from leave on January 17th and Mr. A. J. Reed, the Accountant, on February 19th.

3 During the absence on leave of the Postmaster General, his duties were performed by Mr. S. B. C. Ross from March 23rd until July 28th, and for the remainder of the year by Mr. C. Mol. Messer.

4 Amongst the remainder of the staff there were 11 resignations, 2 deaths, 1 dismissal, 1 invalided 3 transferred to other departments and 4 new appointments. In Shanghai there were one resignation and two deaths.

OFFICE ALTERATIONS.

5 The Chinese distributing office has been removed to the basement under the Local Delivery Room, and the space so rendered vacant has been made into a room for the storage of mails in transit through Hongkong.

6 An electric exhaust fan has been placed in the Foreign Mail room with the result that sickness due to impure atmosphere has been very greatly reduced.

MAILS.

7 The number of mail bags and packets dealt with in the General Post Office, Hongkong, amounted to 1637,141 as against 60,921 in 1906 being an increase of 7,220.

REGISTRATION AND PARCEL BRANCH.

8 Registered articles and parcels handled in Hongkong amounted to 856,415 as against 770,820 in 1906, an increase of 85,595.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

9 The statement of revenue and expenditure shows that the revenue amounted to \$445,420.92 shewing an increase of \$4,966.88 over that of 1906 and an excess of \$27,209.92 over the estimate. The expenditure amounted to \$366,452.47 being an increase of \$6,968.39. The excess of revenue over expenditure was \$8,968.45, an increase of \$17,99.49 compared with last year. The profit was therefore 37½ per cent. of the revenue.

10 A six cent stamp was introduced during the year, as under the new postage rate for Union Countries the postage on every succeeding ounce after the first is 6 cents.

MONEY ORDERS.

11 Although exchange ruled high during the year, the issue of money orders has decreased, while, on the other hand, the payment has largely increased. The fact of the increase of the issue of orders on Japan is owing to Hongkong being the intermediary for the exchange of money orders between Australia and India and the other British Possessions in the East with Japan. About £1,00 of the increase in the sale of Imperial Postal Orders is accounted for by the establishment of another agency at Tientsin.

12 Remittances to the Colony by the means of Imperial Postal Orders have become more popular and are yearly increasing in volume. The reduction in the amount of commission on Local Postal Notes from 2 per cent to 1 per cent effected in 1905 has resulted in the marked increased use of this means of remitting money, \$2,877 in 1907 against \$12,758 and \$14,497 in 1905 and 1906 respectively.

13 The exchange of money orders with Macao, hitherto between Hongkong and Macao only, has been extended to all the British Agencies established in China. Direct exchange with Kiangchow also came into force in 1907.

14 A system of advice of payment of money orders, to the remitter by the paying office at a fee of 10 cents for each order, was introduced, but the public has not availed itself of this innovation.

15 With a view to expediting the payment of money orders in the United Kingdom a new

system of dealing with the advices has been introduced. Instead of forwarding all the advices together with the money order list to the exchange office of London for onward transmission to the paying office, these documents, after being certified, are sent direct from Hongkong to their respective offices of payment under separate covers. This arrangement has been found to possess considerable advantage over that previously in force, inasmuch as payment has frequently been effected a day and sometimes two days earlier than could possibly have been the case under the old system.

16 On the first December a new system inaugurated by the Post Office of the Straits Settlements was introduced for the purpose of providing illiterate coolies with a means of taking their savings back to China by means of money orders payable to bearer without any question being raised as to identification. As up to date only \$150 has been sent this system does not appear to find favour.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

17 The total number of all articles returned to and despatched from Hongkong during the year 1907 amounted to 79,222, viz., 37,354 of the former and 41,868 of the latter showing an increase of 7,554 on the total of the previous year. Of the former, those originating in Hongkong, it was possible to return to the senders 10,747.

18 Enclosed in 47 of these unregistered returned letters, there were found articles of value, bank notes, bank drafts, cheques, money orders, etc. These when possible were subjected to registration and returned to the senders.

19 The following correspondence failed to be delivered in Hongkong, viz., Received from abroad letters 11,993, post cards 1,453, other articles 7,011—locally, letters 1,595, post cards 37, other articles, 1,959.

20 There were found among the unregistered letters posted locally 75 containing coin, principally small amounts. These were nearly all Chinese letters and were returned to senders whenever possible.

21 Thirty-five post cards were posted bearing no address, and very many of them lacked the senders' names. Fifty post cards bearing imitations of postage stamps addressed to places in the United Kingdom had to be withdrawn owing to the entry of such cards into the United Kingdom being prohibited. These were returned when the senders' names and addresses could be ascertained.

22 On account of a regulation made on 28th November the following number of letters and circulars concerning lotteries were stopped and returned:—Shanghai Watch Club, 249, German Lottery Circulars 128.

PILLAR BOXES.

23 The total number of articles collected during the year from all pillar boxes was 168,496 against 122,899 in 1906 and 92,170 in 1905. Special postmen are detailed for the work of clearing these letter boxes.

CHINESE BRANCH.

24 The total number of Chinese registered articles delivered by the Chinese Branch at the General Post Office was 162,920 of which 103,793 were from the United States of America and Canada and 59,127 from China and other countries showing a total increase compared with the year 1906 of 20,470. The amount of ordinary correspondence dealt with has also largely increased.

POSTAL HONG LICENCES.

25 Thirty-eight postal hong licences and 120 licences to letter carriers were issued during the year. These numbers show a decrease of 6 hong licences and 36 letter carrier licences. The decrease is due to the increased rate of postage on hong packets to and from Canton which was raised to 4 cents per half ounce. The hongs are still in the habit of smuggling their letters on board steamers, instead of sending them through the Post Office for transmission. An appreciable increase in the number of hong packets received by the Post Office for transmission to Shanghai was due to one of these hongs being caught smuggling and fined \$200 by the Police Magistrate and having its licence cancelled.

WESTERN BRANCH POST OFFICE.

26 The amount of correspondence sent between this Branch Office and Canton was:—Despatched 485,563 letters, 1,214 other articles and 4,647 registered articles; Received 62,745 letters, 6,130 other articles and 3,390 registered

articles. This is a total increase compared with last year of 531,788 letters and other articles and 3,637 registered articles. In addition to the above 14,661 Hong packets were despatched and 19,577 received. The revenue of the sale of stamps amounted to \$43,928.38 compared with \$14,724.20 in the previous year.

TIENTSIN POST OFFICE.

27 This agency was established in October 1906. During the year 1907 the amount of correspondence despatched was 43,366 ordinary letters, 4,705 newspapers and packets, and 4,085 registered articles. Exclusive of the above 632 parcels of a nett weight of 2,174 lbs. were despatched. The nett weight of apud outward mail exclusive of parcels does not exceed 5,000 lbs while the nett weight of inward mail amounts to about 75,000 lbs. a ratio of fifteen to one.

28 A through service via Harbin was started on 17th October and the use of the Siberian route has come increasingly into favour.

29 The incoming mail consisted of 1,276 bags of letters and papers from Shanghai, 153 bags from Hongkong, 88 bags from Chefoo and 2 bags of letters only from London. Also 191 boxes and bags of parcels were received from various quarters.

30 The sale of stamps amounted to \$3,025.92. Imperial Notes were sold to a value of £1,114.00 and Local Notes to a value of \$1,466.75.

LOSSES OF MAIL.

31 The mail for London, via Siberia from Shanghai on 30th March, 1907, was opened and ransacked on board the s.s. "Baltica." The s.s. "Dakota" carrying a mail from America was wrecked off the coast of Japan. The s.s. "Sullberg" carrying a mail from Haiphong to Hongkong foundered during a typhoon and has never been heard of since.

RESULTS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION HELD AT ROME IN 1906.

32 The Rome Convention came into force on October 1st. The chief changes introduced by this convention were as follows:—

33 The transit charges were altered. Payments for land transit are fixed according to distance instead of one fixed amount for any distance. The Maritime transit charges have been reduced. The Russian Government is still allowed to charge 15 francs per kilogramme for transmission by the Siberian Railway.

34 The method of taking statistics has also been simplified. Under former conventions efforts were made to arrive at exactitude of statement, which experience has shown to be impossible, and which called for an expenditure of labour out of all keeping with the results attained. The new method will furnish results quite as satisfactory as those obtained under the former method, and with very much less trouble. The new method is to take gross weight of mails instead of nett weight and for offices of exchange on receiving open mails for forward transmission to other postal administrations to take credit according to the number of letters, post cards and other objects received and then to treat this correspondence as domestic. The transit charge for each letter sent in open mail being fixed at 6 centimes for each post card and other article 2½ centimes.

35 Statistics were taken for all mails starting during the first twenty-eight days of November, and the results of such statistics are now being worked out so that transit charges for the next six years may be determined.

36 The postal rates have been altered, important reductions having been made in the letter rate. For Hongkong the rate was formerly fixed at 10 cents for every ½ ounce. The new rate is 10 cents for the first ounce and 6 cents for every additional ounce. In the case of countries belonging to the Imperial British penny postage scheme, the unit of weight has been increased from half an ounce to one ounce. At the Postal Agencies in China maintained by the Hongkong Post Office, the unit of weight has been only raised to 20 grammes instead of half an ounce, (about 14 grammes), 20 grammes being the unit of weight for countries in the Postal Union which adopt the metrical measures. The advantage to the public of Hongkong from these rates is very great. In writing a letter of moderate length, it will no longer be necessary to use paper so thin as to make the writing almost illegible, and if one wants to send a heavier letter the diminution in the charge is very considerable. Thus a letter from Hongkong to

Germany weighing just 4 ounces used to cost 80 cents, now it only costs 28 cents.

37 A scheme for the prepayment of replies to letters has been started, by the issuing of coupons, which may not be sold at a less value than 28 centimes, and which are exchangeable in countries which have adopted this scheme for a stamp of the value of 25 centimes or its equivalent. These coupons have not found favour in Hongkong only 92 having been sold up to December 31st. The reason being that most correspondence is addressed to British Possessions that have adopted the penny post.

38 It is unnecessary for cards to bear the heading "Post Card" in order to receive treatment as post cards, and the fact that a card is labelled "Post Card" does not prevent it passing through the mails as printed matter if it contain no unallowable writing.

39 The rule absolutely excluding all merchandise, as distinct from samples, has been relaxed and widened to include specifically mentioned articles—single keys, fresh cut flowers, tube of serum and pathological specimens which have been rendered inoffensive.

TORN COVERS.

40 The number of articles received with covers torn off amounted to 1,728, of which 399 were afterwards forwarded to destination.

PROSECUTIONS.

41 During the year there were 13 prosecutions under the Post Office Ordinance, 11 for unlawfully infringing the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General. Fines to the amount of \$1,200 were paid. There were two cases of fraudulently obtaining registered letters by means of forged signature and chop.

C. McI. MESSER,
Postmaster General.

JURORS FINED.

At the Criminal Sessions on May 18th opened in the Supreme Court before the Chief Justice two jurors did not answer to their names when called. Subsequently Mr. Isaac S. Perry appeared and was called to the front where the Registrar asked—How is it, Mr. Perry, you were not here when your name was called?

Mr. Perry—It escaped my memory altogether. I am very sorry. As soon as I saw the notice this morning I came to the Court. I am willing to serve on the next sessions. I am very sorry.

His Lordship—I am afraid I must impose a nominal fine.

Mr. Perry—I am willing to serve on the next sessions, your Lordship.

His Lordship—You must take your chance of that. I must impose a nominal fine of \$5.

A little later the second man who had failed to answer to his name, Mr. J. T. Shaw, appeared and was called to the front.

The Chief Justice—How is it you were not here?

Mr. Shaw—I forgot all about it.

His Lordship—You jurymen must try to remember. You are fined \$2.

At the close of the day and before the jury were discharged, his Lordship said he had received a letter from Mr. Shaw in which he gave a proper explanation why he was not in Court when his name was called and asked his Lordship to reduce the fine. He was bound to say that gentlemen of the empanel generally fulfilled their duties in a most punctilious manner. In this case Mr. Shaw was busy with his employer and he therefore reduced the fine to the nominal one of \$5. It would be a great convenience to the Court and to everybody, but particularly to the gentlemen who were employed in large firms, if they would notify their employers of the fact that they had received the summons to attend as a jurymen. Perhaps a little note in the diary would be of great assistance and there would be no difficulty whatever in getting out at the time for which they were summoned to attend. He did not wish to criticise the way in which jurymen do perform their duty because since he had been there, there had been only three such cases.

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, May 3rd.

THE TRAGEDY OF IT.

Naval disasters in times of peace are common enough nowadays—so common indeed that the tragedy, and irony of it are overlooked—but the disaster that put a sudden end to the "Matsushima" is remarkable in many respects, notably in the number of prominent families it has placed in mourning. Many pitiful stories are told in the vernacular press here of incidents connected with the disaster. When the news of the death of Captain Yashiro was received his poor wife was about to give birth to a child. The awful intelligence was not communicated to her, but how long could it properly be withheld and who would be bold enough to tell it? A court lady and mother of one of the dead cadets was officiating at the wedding of prince Takeda the whole day news of the disaster was received but the fate of her son was withheld. Marshal Oyama (with whose name so much tragedy is linked) loses his eldest son and heir, Admiral Urin and Baron Chinda (Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs) lose their sons. Before the training squadron left Japan a young midshipman called at friends' in Kamakura and left a bag laughingly saying that he would call for it in June. His mother has lost her son; and so the story could be repeated. Thirty-three midshipmen, from whom much was expected by the State, lie cold in death.

"EXTERMINATION" IN FORMOSA.

The London press recently contained references to the methods of the Japanese authorities in dealing with the Formosan aborigines, and disapproval has been shown of the rigour of the Japanese policy of subjugation—or of extermination, as has been suggested. This policy is now in active operation, however, for several accounts have come to hand in the past few days showing that fighting is in progress. It seems inaccurate to refer to the Japanese policy as one of extermination, as if the natives were absolutely helpless, and could not put up a fight. On the contrary they appear to be giving plenty of trouble and the Japanese expedition is not by any means a garden party. It consists of Japanese and native police, but from latest accounts this is likely to prove inadequate and regular troops may be dispatched before long.

THE COMMERCIAL SITUATION.

The old and respected firm of Simon, Evers, & Co. is in difficulties, but it is possible it will be able to pull through. The firm in Kobe has had extensive transactions with Japanese in Osaka and the failure of the latter has precipitated matters. The situation of this firm, however, is but a reflex, it is feared, of others, and especially those with small capital who have overtraded. This practice is not uncommon among foreign firms who, while they get the trade, and prosper in prosperous times, are hardest hit on a falling market. Very few can withstand the strain. General regret is expressed that trouble should even threaten such an old and respected concern as Simon Evers.

THE ELECTIONS.

In a day or two the general elections will be upon us, and there will be an opportunity to judge if the elector has profited by the unpleasant experiences of the country of late and is determined to use his great privilege of voting in the interests of the country. The commercial world is certainly awakened and we may have in the coming parliament a strong body of men representing commerce as opposed to the old stagers, who believe the only interests in the country worth considering are those of agriculture. The bankers have lately been at pains to signify their strong disapproval of Government financial policy, and this to a people not accustomed to contradicting government authority, must have all the value of strong, independent criticism. Perhaps the significance of their power as voters may be more clearly realised in the coming elections.

SNOW IN APRIL.

April, the month of the cherry-blossom when thousands of country folk visit Tokyo for the specific purpose of cherry-blossom sightseeing and tourists begin to arrive from abroad, the warm

and spring like month of April, brought this year the severest snowstorm experienced in Japan for a generation. In hunting up a precedent for this display of unseasonable weather the Japanese papers go back fifty years to the time of the assassination of Lord Ii, outside the Sukurada Gate of the capital, and point out that the late snowfall was one week later in the season than the record one of fifty years ago. But in those primitive days a heavy fall of snow was not such a serious and expensive event as in these days of the telegraph and telephone. Only those who have actually had the experience can realise how far Tokyo was "tied up" by what a foreigner would consider a most ordinary snowstorm, judged by the climatic conditions he has been accustomed to.

A PARALYSED CITY.

Tokyo went to bed on the night of the 8th April under a dull sky. It woke up on the morning of the 9th amid a city beautiful, for the low roofs and numerous clumps of trees were white with snow, which was still falling fast. This aspect of things was all that the artistic could desire, for nothing is more romantic than a low-roofed town under the snow. Hokusai's delightful sketches were outside our very doors for a few brief hours. But while fifty years ago the people would have been content to gaze upon the scene, to string the samisen, or write an *uta* in memory of the occasion, while at that period the Japanese were a happier nation and time had no value, to day the masses are the slaves of business. The great powers represented by electricity and steam have the people in their grasp and these must work. But the storm increases and proves more formidable than the works of man. Citizens leaving early for their business in the city find themselves stormbound in an electric car that won't go, and from then on the most novel sights present themselves to the eye. Those who are accustomed to Shank's mare enjoy the confusion that exists and juggle along through half-a-foot of slush and through a blinding snowfall greatly interested in spite of serious discomforts.

SOME SIGHTS IN THE CITY.

The main characteristic of Tokyo on the day of the storm was the absence of movement. Everything was at a standstill, seemingly, for one could look up the principal streets, usually crowded with trains, carts, rikishas and foot passengers, and see nothing but isolated electric cars, round which the snow was gradually being heaped by the wind and intricate coils of fallen telegraph wires making it extremely dangerous to go quicker than a walking pace. Very early indeed the tramcar service was at a completely standstill, and what this means only those who live in Tokyo can understand. On the railways the same conditions prevailed, traffic was impossible with the lines crossed here and there with fallen telegraph poles. Throughout Tokyo-fu, a district including a large area of country studded with factories of various sorts, every work which depended upon electric power was at a standstill; light could not be obtained at night, excepting that supplied by the humble candle and oil lamp; and the telephone was dead.

A QUESTION OF ECONOMY.

The storm was of course a serious blow to trade and industry, and the question arises if it could have been avoided by more substantial construction. It was noticeable that the Tokyo Electric Light Co. suffered little damage and its light would have been continued without interruption but for an order from the authorities who feared fire by contact of the company's wires with their own which were broken in all directions. On the Tokyo plain, across which the Electric Light Co.'s wires are carried from the mountains for a distance of 40 miles, it was noticeable that the poles withstood the storm, while along the railway tracks the Government service was useless. It must be said, however, that while one service is new (of foreign construction) the other is as old as the railways themselves. Telegraph or telephone communication, either in Tokyo or with points beyond, could not be obtained for several days, and it is extraordinary that the Government wires should have been useless for such a long time. Here again is in evidence the policy of cheap construction. Similarly, in the case of the river embankments, the people think they suffer less loss by having their fields and homesteads ravaged by inundation periodically

than they would if they went to the expense of a substantial barrier which would be a protection for generations.

THE PRESS IN KOREA.

The Residency-General has shown its determination to carry out its promise of bringing the press in Korea to order by the issue of additional provisions to the Regulations. The new laws empower the Home Minister (who, though a Korean, really works under the advice of a Japanese vice minister and under the control of the Residency General) to suppress any journal publishing matter calculated to lead to a breach of the peace or "a derangement of old custom." Under government as it is to-day in the peninsula this practically throttles the press, for the Residency General is not in the mood to extend the same indulgence or regard with the same indifference free-lance utterances which might pass in London or any other well-governed and well settled centre and do no particular harm to anybody. The Korean is susceptible and although there is doubtless injustice in the country for which the Residency-General is responsible, in the interests of good government it is wise that extravagantly hostile criticism of the authorities should be suppressed, so long as the authorities make an honest endeavour to carry out their task. The freedom of the press is a much used phrase, but there must be limitations in such raw countries as Korea, where freedom has lately been interpreted as licence.

RISINGS IN ANNAM.

WAR CHEST IN A HONGKONG BANK?

A correspondent of the "Courrier d'Hai-phong" writes under date, 20th April, describing the revolt which has taken place at Quinhone, situated between Hanoi and Tourane. It is supposed, he writes, that the movement, which is well conducted and organised, is evidently not the work of a discontented political party. At any rate it is certain that many of the leading gentry are directing the movement and that they are supported by other notables who have rallied to the cause and are loyally assisting the leaders. It is said that these literary gentlemen and other notables have given of their means and that at the present moment there is a deposit of 30 million piastres in a bank in Hongkong to provide funds in order to carry on the campaign; moreover it is believed that the party has arms in reserve, hidden somewhere, and that the more pacific campaign waged at present will be succeeded by a campaign of bloodshed and burning.

The rebels which surround Binh-Dinh are now about 10,000 in number. On the 18th April, it was reported, they made an assault during the night on the citadel of Binh Dinh intending to take from there the Tong-doc and cut his hair, as had been done several days before to the "phu de Bong-son," who had been captured in an assault on his residence.

M. Sandre has asked all Europeans at Quinhone who are in good health to enrol themselves for the purpose of directing the native guards. A number of customs officers and an artillery brigade from the geological mission made several reprisals and drove back the insurgents from the positions which they held and from which they threatened the Citadel. In the course of these operations, during which the instructions were not to fire, the artillery brigade was badly handled and jostled by several agitators, one artilleryman being wounded on the leg. The situation of Messrs. Dufresnil and Sandre was more critical. They with other Europeans had to bear the brunt of the attack of the demonstrators, who came to the doors of the Citadel in large numbers. Then it was that the command was issued not to shoot and outposts were effectively used. On the other hand, the native guard, jaded beyond measure since the beginning of these operations and deprived of all rest, inspired little confidence, especially in the presence of the agitators who shouted to them and reproached them for fighting against their brothers.

Villages have risen en masse to swell the movement against the French and a number of customs men have been killed at their posts. Every inhabitant who does not adhere to the movement is captured and has his hair cropped short.

Two companies of infantry have been despatched to Quinhone, and another is en route to Binh Dinh. At present it is calculated that ten to fifteen natives have been killed and about 200 wounded.

COMPANIES.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventeenth ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of China, Limited, was held on May 16th. Mr. J. Scott Harston (chairman of directors) presided. Others present were:—Messrs. G. C. Moxon (managing director), E. S. Kadoorie, P. C. Potts, E. D. Haskell, E. Ellis, Sin Tak Fan, Chan Pi Pan, Yung Pak Leung and J. Georg.

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen.—The report and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1907 having now been some time in your hands I will with your permission, take them as read. You will remember that in the Chairman's speech at our annual general meeting held in 1906 it was stated that there were certain securities then held by the Bank that had not been realised and that in view of the uncertainty of their value it was deemed advisable to build up reserves to provide for any deficit that might occur. Many of these securities having now been realised your Directors are of opinion that the time has arrived to make provision for all these and other losses and with that aim in view have written off all bad and doubtful assets. Your ordinary reserves are now reduced to \$150,000 after making this provision. With regard to your capital reserve which stood at \$152,820 on 31st December, 1906, it is proposed as you will observe from the balance sheet in your hands to appropriate from this fund the sum of \$104,701.66 to enable the last call of £40,453 to appear at the rate of s. 8d. to the dollar and so fall in line with the rest of your capital. You will readily understand that this apparent depletion of your capital reserve fund by \$104,701.66 is not actually a loss, but is merely a book adjustment to enable the accounts to be represented in what appears to your Directors to be the most intelligible form. In this connection I may add that when the Courts at home granted our capital in our balance sheet at 1s. 8d. to the dollar it was laid down by the Court of Appeal that the balance then standing to the credit of reserve fund should be treated as a "Capital Reserve" fund and should only be used for capital purposes, and we now avail ourselves of this authority. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question in connection therewith that may be put to me to the best of my ability.

There being no questions,

The report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. KADOORIE.

On the motion of Mr. POTTS, seconded by Mr. HASKELL, Mr. C. Ewens was re-elected as a director of the Hongkong Board.

Messrs. Lowe and Bingham were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. MOXON, seconded by Mr. POTTS.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held on May 16th at the registered offices, Alexandra Buildings. Mr. H. Humphreys presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Dr. Noble, Messrs G. C. Moxon, J. A. Jupp, C. S. Gubbay (directors), E. E. Ellis, J. M. Wong C. B. Buyers, and Dr. Clark.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, owing to a clerical error in the original report issued, the corrected report now before you has only been in your hands since yesterday. Unless, however, any shareholder wishes me to read

the report and statement of accounts, I shall follow the usual course and take them as read. During the period under review the whole of the 50,000 new shares in the Company have been duly allotted and a first call of \$1.00 per share has been paid up on same. As actual construction work on the new line has not yet commenced it has not been found necessary to make any further call on shareholders; consequently your directors are enabled to pay you a dividend at the rate of eight per cent per annum, but after work has started and during the process of building further capital will be called up, and shareholders must expect to receive smaller dividends. The profit and loss account differs in two respects from any that have hitherto been placed before you. The balance carried forward has been omitted and an allowance made for outstanding season tickets. Both these changes (which are purely of a bookkeeping nature) have been carried out upon the suggestion of the Company's auditors. The provision for outstanding season tickets however reduces the profits by \$3,866.30. A comparison of the present balance sheet with the previous one is difficult for the reason that the former is for twelve months and the latter for eighteen months and 13 days, but I am pleased to be able to inform you that traffic receipts for the financial year just closed show an increase of \$7,145.30 as compared with the previous twelve months. As there is only a corresponding increase in running and other expenses of \$1,103.47 the net gain on the year amounts to \$6,051.83 a result which, I think, you will consider satisfactory. Your General Managers and Directors are not yet able to state definitely when work on the new line will commence. Negotiations have been going on during the whole year with the Government and a complete survey of the proposed line has been made. Many difficulties arose in connection with these negotiations but most of them have now been surmounted and we think that before many months are over we shall know exactly how we stand. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There being no questions,

The report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ELLIS.

The CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. BUYERS seconded the re-election of Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. G. C. Moxon and Mr. C. S. Gubbay as directors. Carried.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. WONG.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1907 for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third annual ordinary general meeting of the Company since its registration, to be held at the offices of the Company in Alexandra Buildings on May 30th reads:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business, with a balance sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1907.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the General Managers, providing for all bad doubtful debts, and allowing for loss on subsidiary coins amount to

\$ 81,532.12

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year

5,482.67

\$87,014.79

From this there has to be deducted—

General Manager's Commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits for the year as per Article 8 of the Company's Articles Association

4,076.60

Remuneration of the Consulting Committee as per Article 92...	2,500.00	6,576.60
Leaving available for appropriation		\$80,438.19
We paid an Interim Dividend of 8 per cent. in November last absorbing..	\$27,000.00	
We now propose to pay a further Dividend of 3 per cent. (making 6 per cent. for the year) which will absorb	27,000.00	
To write off Building Improvements, Furniture, Fittings, Utensils of Trade, Aerated Water Plant, and Machinery	20,000.00	
To carry forward to 1908 Account	6,438.19	
		\$80,438.19
CONSULTING COMMITTEE:		
The existing Consulting Committee consists of Hon. Sir C. P. Charter, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, and Messrs. H. P. White and J. Scott Harston.		
AUDITORS:		
The Company's Accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. Francis Maitland and Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.		
JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers, Hongkong, 12th May, 1908.		
BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1907.		
LIABILITIES.		
Capital account	900,000.00	
Permanent reserve fund	300,000.00	
Reserve fund to meet contingencies or for equalization of dividends	25,000.00	
		1,225,000.00
Local and general liabilities in the East and in America	170,964.02	
Local and general liabilities in London	53,581.48	
		224,545.50
Mortgage on section E of inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon	48,000.00	
Mortgage on marine lot No. 2C and the buildings thereon	125,000.00	
Mortgage on remaining portion of Kowloon inland lot No. 55 and the buildings thereon	25,000.00	
Advance against San Jacinto property, Manila	29,600.91	
		227,600.91
Bills payable, Hongkong and Manila		154,235.90
Unclaimed dividends		12,995.18
Security deposits from staff		18,500.00
Profit and loss:—		
Forward from 1906	\$5,482.67	
Net balance 1907	81,532.12	
		87,014.79
Less interim dividend of 30 cent per share paid in November, 1907	27,000.00	
Less amount unclaimed at 31st December, 1907	\$2,951.00	
		\$24,049.00
		62,965.79
		\$1,925,840.88
ASSETS.		
Total Stocks in Trade		\$1,031,542.92
Building Improvements, Furniture, Fittings, and Trade Utensils at Hongkong, Manila, Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, and Native Branches:—		
As per last a/c	\$143,371.45	
Amount written off for depreciation in May 1907	14,771.63	
		\$128,599.82
Added during 1907	34,840.88	
		\$163,440.70
Aerated Water and other Machinery and Plant at Hongkong, Manila, Canton, Amoy, Shanghai and Hankow		
As per last a/c	\$125,839.65	

Amount written off for depreciation in May 1907	10,228.97
\$115,660.63	
Added during 1907	18,948.81
	134,609.49
Steam Launch "Tai Yank Fong"	
Cargo Boat and Water Boats	\$5,200.03
	5,200.03
Good Debts due from Customers	\$302,350.82
Sundry Debtors	209,699.97
Cash in hand	27,394.15
Cash in Bank	\$16,246.05
	5,865.13
	22,111.18
Fire Insurance premia and Licences	11,740.38
Section E. of Inland Lot No. 19 and the Buildings thereon	\$60,000.00
Marine Lot No. 20 and the Buildings thereon	173,917.32
Remaining Portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 550 and the Buildings thereon	27,500.00
Marine Lot No. 293 as per last ac.	\$17,707.00
Expended for Reclamation in 1907	9,004.00
	26,711.00
San Jacinto Land and Buildings, Manila	29,872.74
	818,001.56
	\$1,925,840.98
PROFIT AND LOSS.	
To balance	\$ 87,014.79
	\$87,014.79
CONTRA.	
By balance forward from 1906	\$ 5,482.67
By net profits, Hongkong, China & Manila for 1907	81,532.12
	\$87,014.79

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the tenth ordinary annual meeting to be held on May 27th reads:—

The Directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report, with a statement of accounts, for the year ending 30th April 1908.

ACCOUNTS.

The nett earnings of the boats, after paying all working expenses and providing for a loss of \$9,37.04 on subsidiary coins, amounted to \$5,544.38, as against \$48,022.80 the previous year.

The amount at credit of profit and loss account, after paying for repairs and phoing \$7,85.09 to credit of Insurance Fund, is \$24,895.52 which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and Auditor's fees	\$ 1,100.00
Dividend of 0 per cent	15,000.00
Written off boats	8,700.00
Carry forward to new account	98.52
	\$24,898.52

BUSINESS.

Passenger traffic in all classes showed a decline compared with the previous year, but a marked improvement has taken place since the rebuilding of the wharves.

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., retires, but offers himself for re-election.

The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson resigned on leaving the Colony and the Hon. Mr. H. Keswick was invited in his stead. Mr. A. G. Wood also resigned, his place being taken by Mr. A. Haupt, who on leaving the Colony was succeeded by Mr. G. Friesland. These appointments require confirmation.

AUDITOR.

Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented and offers himself for re-election.

C. P. CHATER,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET 30TH APRIL, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
To Capital—	\$ c.
10,000 shares at \$10 each fully paid up	100,000.00
10,000 shares at \$10 each \$5 paid up	50,000.00
	150,000.00
To reserve fund	65,000.00
To insurance fund	47,221.37
To unclaimed dividends	617.00
To accounts payable	9,116.91
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,100.00
To dividend	15,000.00
To balance of profits and loss account	98.52
	\$288,453.80
ASSETS.	
By value of boats as per last account	\$155,700.00
Less written off	\$8,700.00
	147,000.00
By accounts receivable	3,313.08
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	8,423.72
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank No. 2 account	617.00
By Hongkong Hotel debentures	3,000.00
By Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Godown Company, Limited, loan	99,000.00
By cash in hand	100.00
	\$288,453.80
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
To ordinary repairs and alterations	\$ 10,384.88
To insurance fund	7,785.00
To balance appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' and auditor's fees	1,100.00
Dividend of 10 per cent	15,000.00
Written off boats	8,700.00
Carried to new account	98.52
	24,898.52
	\$43,068.40
By balance from last account	137.91
By nett earnings of boats	35,544.38
By interest	7,018.61
By scrip fees	30.00
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	337.50
	\$43,068.40
RESERVE FUND.	
To balance	65,000.00
By balance from last account	\$65,000.00
INSURANCE FUND.	
To balance	47,221.37
	\$47,221.37
By balance from last account	39,436.37
By profit and loss account	7,785.00
	\$47,221.37

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th May, 1908:—There have been no arrivals for a long time from Shekloong, Swatow and Foochow, the prices of the sugar sent from Java, Manila, etc., being much cheaper.

Kobe, May 14th.—Peet.—Market steady, prices unchanged. Cane.—Raw.—Business in Java as well as in Formosan Sugars remain impracticable. Muscovados Basis Polarisation 98 per cent, colour average 12½. D. S. is quoted at Y.6.70 per picul ex ship.—Osaka Refined.—The market is firmer with an upward tone.—At the Osaka Refinery's auction on the 3rd instant, 10,200 bags were sold at an advance of from 10 to 95 Sen.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th May, 1908.—The tone of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.00 to \$4.40
" Round, Good quality	5.05 to 5.10
" Long	5.15 to 5.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.90 to 3.95
" Garden, " No. 1	4.40 to 4.45
" White,	4.80 to 4.90
" Fine Cargo	5.10 to 5.20

Kobe, May 14th.—There is no change in the market. Quotations are:—

Rangoon White, S.Q.	Yen 5.70 per picul.
" Second	5.60 "
Saigon	5.10 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG.—Between the 30th ultimo and the 14th inst., the movements in the various Opium markets of Hongkong have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Pers'n.
Stocks on the 16th April, 1908	605	1,855	674	1,293
April 30th, Imports per Delta	292	—	—	15
" 30th " " On Sang	—	416	900	—
May 4th " " Kum Sang	—	280	225	—
" 7th " " Hakata M.	—	—	25	—
" 11th " " E. Simons	—	—	25	—
" 14th " " Delhi	275½	100	50	91
	1,176½	2,131	1,199	1,402

Less Exports to Shanghai 42 297 198 —
Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight 148½ 642 163 211

Estimated Stocks this day 982 1,192 838 1,191

Bengal.—The market has been steady and prices have advanced to \$1,210 for Patna and \$1,155 for Benares.

Malwa.—About 250 chests have changed hands at about last quotations. Market closes steady.

Quotations are as follows:—

2 years old	\$980
3/4 "	1,010/1,020
Oldest	1,030/1,060

Persian.—Best drug is quoted at \$885/890.

HONGKONG, May 25th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$980	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1.00	do.
Malwa Older	\$1.30	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$10.70	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$380	do.
Patna New	\$1190	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1140	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

YARN.

Kobe.—The rate for July delivery has dropped below Y. 10. This is the lowest price recorded since 1903. The reduction in the output of yarn by the spinning mill has not availed to improve the market, stocks still continuing to increase, and the market is in a most unfavourable condition.

PIECE GOODS.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Piece Goods Report of the 14th inst., state:—Although by no manner of means out of the wood yet, there is a feeling that the worst has been seen, so far as staple goods are concerned, and the market is showing distinct signs of improvement. The evidence of this is mainly obtainable through the re-sales by second hand holders, prices not being sufficiently advanced to induce the majority of importers to sell what they have. The improvement has been brought about by the further decline in Exchange and the continued recovery in the quotations for the raw staple. The reason for the first-named is difficult to understand, but according to some authorities it has been brought about mainly by the manipulations of operators on this side of the globe. That a very unfortunate state of affairs has been created here is beyond dispute, and the holders of drafts, or renewals, against goods are finding more and more difficulty in calling up margins. Enormous sums are outstanding for Duty, interest and storage in addition, and no fresh business has been done by the majority of houses for months to enable them to pay current expenses. It has become a constant drain on capital and must seriously curtail the ability of many firms to continue doing business. A great deal of the depression is put down to one particular weekly Auction, which supplies now, not only the usual staple makes, but has made an onslaught on other classes of goods that were formerly more or

less specialities. The market for such goods is completely demoralised and indentors, natives of course, are quite unable to clear their purchases. Fortunately shipments of such goods are falling off at last and no one is likely to have the temerity to place fresh orders in face of a stock that is 30 per cent greater than it was this time last year. Still there is always the danger of parties not already interested chipping in at the lower prices ruling at home, but fortunately the fall in Exchange goes a good way towards counteracting the cheaper first cost.

A revival in trade at Newchwang appears to have set in at last, and to this must be attributed most of the improvement that has recently taken place in the market here, and although the actual business done for that Port during the interval has not been of any great volume, some speculative buying has taken place in anticipation of fresh orders. In fact most of the native holders say they could place the whole of their stocks at current rates, but want a considerable advance. Private advices from Manchuria are of a decidedly encouraging nature. Although the rainfall this Spring has not been as much as usual the heavy snow during the winter thoroughly moistened the ground and bumper crops are assured, against the about 40 per cent. crops of last year. The Native traders, who were getting into a very lethargic state in face of the increasing influence of the Japanese at the trade centres, are beginning to wake up and are pushing the commodities of other countries, which they find are preferred, so it is hoped that business will soon return to its normal lines again. Tientsin remains in a very quiet state, but some excitement has been caused there during the interval by the sensational suicide of a prominent native merchant and his whole family an account of financial difficulties. The off-take for that Port continues to be very moderate. Clearances for the River Ports are keeping fairly good, and recent returns show not at all unsatisfactory re-exports to Chefoo and Kiaochow.

Manchester is stronger in sympathy with cotton, the position of which it is difficult to understand. A further advance in the spot price of Mid-American has taken place to 5.83d. while "futures," which had dropped to 4.78d. have recovered to 5.33d. November and December is quoted 4.88d. Spot cotton of good quality is scarce in Liverpool, which accounts for the present comparatively high price there. The acreage planted for the new crop shows an increase and the weather so far has been entirely favourable. Egyptian cotton has advanced to 7½d. The last fortnightly advice of the export of plain cottons from England to China was 15,000,000 yards.

The New York market is reported to be strong with no sellers at any price. Pepperell Drills being quoted nominally 12s. 2d. The state of trade may be judged from a telegram received earlier in the interval which said the Southern Mills were prepared to shut down if prices did not improve, which certainly looks as though the demand for home consumption had not revived. Cotton advanced in New York yesterday to 9.42 cents July option, and 9.90 cents for October; today, however, 9.12 cents comes for that month's option.

The Yarn market keeps firm for all Spinnings, the clearances of which are quite satisfactory. Native Cotton is very strong at an advance.

Business from first hands during the interval has been very small the majority of the few holders with available cargo wanting higher prices than are now offered, which are much below replacing cost. They appear willing to wait until adequate rates are forthcoming.

Kobe, 14th May.—Forward quotations for American which have been declining steadily for a considerable time have latterly shown signs of improving, and prices have been during the last week on a decided upward tendency. Latest quotation of "forward" Middling is reported at Y. 33.00 for new crop October shipment. "Spot" is nominal at Y. 30.00. Indian.—The improvement of American quotations has likewise affected Indian rates and prices are somewhat firmer. There is no important business, however, to report. "Spot" is quiet. Closing quotations are: Broach Y.26.50, Akola Khamguam Y.21.00, Bengal Y.19.75. Chinese.—Home rates are reported higher and steady, but no transactions have taken place. Nominal rates are: Best Y.25.00, Common Y.22.50.

No business is doing in Shirtings, Cotton Goods and Fancies.

Worsted and Woollens.—The Spring season is finished and the general estimate is that hardly half of the Import has been taken up by buyers. Clearances of Spring goods have been very unsatisfactory and large stocks have been carried over.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 11th May, 1908.

The following are the latest quotations in the Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$ 12
Borax	\$ 15 to 16
Cassia	\$ 18 to 19
Cloves	\$ 32
Camphor	\$ 92
Cow Bezoar	\$ 115
Fennel Seed	\$ 7
Galangal	\$ 8 to 9
Grapes	\$ 10
Kismis	\$ 14
Glue	\$ 27 to 30
Olibanum	\$ 2 to 10
Oil Sandalwood	\$ 245 to 350
„ Rosa	\$ 50 to 150
„ Cassia	\$ 240
Raisins	\$ 10
Senna Leaves	\$ 6 to 9
Sandalwood	\$ 32
Saltpetre	\$ 18

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

HANKOW, May, 13th.—The first musters of the New Crop were placed on the Market on the 12th instant, when several chops of Ningchow and Khemuns were shewn. The stock of Kiukiang tea is 21,170 half chests.

Kobe, May 14th.—The season has not yet properly opened. A few teas have arrived, and appear to be slightly better in quality and style than last year. It is, however, too early to form any accurate opinion as to how prices will tend.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 25th May, 1908.—From Formosa \$91 to \$94 a picul. The price shows a rising tendency.

COPPER.

Kobe, May 14th.—About 400 tons have been bought for export, but market closes dull owing to the decline of quotations in Europe.

MATTING.

Kobe, May 14th.—Prices on all grades of "stock" Matting have fallen considerably with a still weaker tendency; on the other hand quotations for special order goods are well maintained.

STRAW BRAID.

Kobe, May 14th.—The market was decidedly firmer during the past fortnight, and prices generally advanced a point or two. Chip Braid.—A little more enquiry was noticeable during the period under review, and prices were slightly firmer in consequence.

HEMP.

MANILA, May, 21st.—Consignees have been gratified by an announcement made by the President of the Banco Español-Filipino that the Bank is prepared to assist them to the extent to "a few hundred thousand pesos." It was feared, in the present state of the market that con-

signees who are expecting consignments would be unable to raise money on them, and a representative of the hemp firms was deputed to wait upon the president of the Bank and explain the situation. A correspondent in one of the daily papers states:—"The hemp crop for this year is estimated at about two million piculs which at nine pesos per picul, which is the quotation of the London market on the last hemp receipts there, would give but 18 million pesos for this year's production instead of the 32 millions for 1907, 32 millions for 1906, 37 millions for 1905 and 36 millions for 1904. Thus, compared with the last two years, the prices that will be paid by the hemp cornerers will mean a loss of fourteen million pesos. The valuable assistance offered by the Banco Español-Filipino should animate the Government to come to the assistance of the hemp growers, making use of the Vera scheme to accomplish that end." The Vera scheme spoken of is the one prepared by Vicente de Vera in which it is provided that all the insular funds lying idle in the treasury shall be deposited in the Banco Español-Filipino and be held available for making loans on agricultural land. This Bill is now under consideration in committee.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 13th May, 1908.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 29.00
Do. Seconds	„ 25.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	„ 22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	„ —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	„ —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	„ 8.70
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	„ 8.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	„ 7.70
Jute	„ —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	„ 10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	„ —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	„ 10.10
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	„ 10.40
Animal Tallow	„ 10.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	„ 15.20
Gallnuts, plum do.	„ 17.20
Tobacco, Tingchow	„ —
Tobacco, Wongkong	„ —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	„ —
Turmeric	„ —
Sesamum Seed	„ 5.50
Sesamum Seed Oil	„ —
Wood Oil	„ 8.50
Tea Oil	„ —

Per P. & O. steamer *Oceana*, sailed on 16th May, 1908:—For Glasgow:—1 case cigars. For Manchester:—250 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—2 cases silks, 2 cases curios. For Milan:—15 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—373 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—70 bales raw silk, 10 bales feathers, 1 case embroidery. For London:—1,845 boxes tea, 106 bales waste silk, 125 bales raw silk, 6 cases silk piece goods, 7 packages private effects, 16 cases chinaware, 4 cases birds' feathers

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on 20th May, 1908:—For Christiania:—1 case cigars. For Rotterdam:—100 boxes tea. For Antwerp:—901 sacks copra. For Hamburg:—10 cases human hair. For Marseilles:—80 cases camphor. For London:—33 cases private effects, 390 packages tea, 3,175 packages fire crackers, 40 cases dried preserves, 17 rolls matting, 5 bales feathers, 8 cases silk goods, 100 cases chinaware, 4 cases curios, 10 cases woodware, 2 cases copperware, 12 cases straw cuffs.

TRADE IN JAPAN.

Kobe, 14th May.—The Market Report published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade states: The severe financial depression continues and it is to be regretted that at the present time the Native Press have taken occasion to make libellous statements regarding the financial standing of foreign firms of undoubted position, but in the present state of the Law it appears hopeless to appeal through the Courts for redress.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 22nd May, 1908.—The market on the whole has ruled steady and a fair cash business has been transacted; anything like a general business, however, is still conspicuous by its absence. Transactions have been confined to a small field, and although rates remain steady and sellers not inclined to reduce, many stocks continue to be offered without finding buyers; on the other hand the stocks which are in demand are difficult to obtain and the inelasticity of the market is still painfully apparent. The prominent and indeed the only feature of the market is the rapid, and somewhat sudden and unforeseen rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, particulars of which we give below.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai. A rise in the London rate to £75.10s, quickly affected our already firm market, and the local rate improved, in the absence of sellers, to 710, 715, 720, 725, without bringing out any but a few small odd lots; at the close sales have been effected at 730, and the market closes with further buyers at that rate. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A small sale of Unions at 795 is reported; further than this we have nothing to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongers have improved to 315 with buyers, but sellers demand a higher rate (\$320), and we have no sales to report. Chinas continue in demand at 92, without business.

SHIPPING.—A few small sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao at 29 is the only business to report under this heading, the other stocks remaining unchanged and neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled considerably weaker and after a sale at 130 close with sellers at that, and probably at a cheaper rate. Luzons have been in request from outports but holders were loth to part and no shares were forthcoming until \$20 was reached, when a few hundred shares changed hands; the demand, however, continued, and in the absence of any further supply the market closes firmer at 20½ buyers.

MINING.—Raubs have been neglected, and after small sales in the early part of the week at 8½, close quiet with small sales at 8, and with probable sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled very quiet, and we have heard of no sales, while the rate has receded to 103 with sellers. Kowloon Wharfs have changed hands at 52, and close steady at that. Shanghai Docks during the week went up in Shanghai to 87, but close somewhat easier at 85 with local sellers. Hongkew Wharfs also improved in the North to 229/230, but at time of closing rates from Shanghai come weaker at 226.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been a little out of favour and small sales have been made at 99 with some difficulty, the market closing with sellers at that rate. Humphreys have been placed at 10 and more are wanted at the rate. Other stocks under this heading call for no comment.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed at 10½, Ices at 225, and Watsons at 10. China Providents have found buyers at 9, and later at 9.10, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Cements have been the medium of a fair investing business at 10½, and close firmer with buyers at that and with no sellers under 10½. Borneos have been easier, and the rate has declined to 31½, without bringing out any buyers. China Lights have been in demand, but with no shares forthcoming we have no sales to report, and at the close the rate has risen to 6½, and it is more than probable that 7 could be obtained. Powells and Electrics have changed hands at quotations, and Peak Tramways have improved to 13½, with buyers ex the dividend of \$0.80 paid on the 18th inst.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$730, buyers
National B. of China	26	London £75.10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$71, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$10½, sales & sel.
China Provident	\$10	\$6½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		\$9, sales & buyers
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 58
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 77½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 260
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$52, sales & sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	{ Tls. 100 } { Tls. 100 }	Tls. 85, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 226
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$13, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10½, sales & buy.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$96, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	225, sales
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$31½, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$235, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 78, buyers
Union	\$100	\$797½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$145
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$99, sales & sel.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 112
West Point Building	\$50	\$49, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$560, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$8½, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$13½, buyers x.d.
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$2, x.d.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$180, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, sales & buy.
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$16, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	{ \$38 } { \$24 }
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$45, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$18, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M & Co.	\$10	\$15, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5½, sales
Watkins	\$10	\$3, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10
Wiemann Ltd.	\$100	\$165
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TIENTSIN SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Tientsin Land Investment Co., Ltd.	Tls. 90	sales
Tientsin Baugesellschaft	98	"
Astor House Hotel	60	nom.
Imperial Hotel, Ltd.	47	"
Grand Hotel Wagon-Lits	85	sales
Taku Tug & Lighter Co.	47	"
Tientsin Water Works, Ltd.	100	nom.
Tientsin Native City W. W. Ltd.	104	buyers
Crystal, Ltd.	50	sellers
Tientsin Horse Bazaar	14	"
Tientsin Gas & Elect. Light Co., Ltd.	80	nom.
Tientsin Press, Ltd.	42	sellers
N. C. P. & P. Co., Ltd.	50	buyers

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

21st May, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$730, buyers
National of China...	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ } { T125 }	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$795, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 77½, sales
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$152½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$240, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, sales
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	210	Tls. 29½, sales
Shell Trans. { ord. } & Trading { pref. }	21	Tls. 1½, sales
S'hai Tug & Lighter { ord. } Lighter { pref. }	10	\$23.50, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	\$29.10, sellers
	T50	Tls. 44, sellers
	T50	Tls. 51, sellers
	T50	Tls. 47½, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$97½, buyers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 224½, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$53, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 212½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 77½, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$135, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ 21 } { 18/10 }	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	Tls. 15½, sellers
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 114½, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$100, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sales
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 98½, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 58½, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 63, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 77½, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 280, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 109, sellers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 42½, sales
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 15, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 54, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 47, buyers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$11, sellers
Maatschappij, & Co., in Langkat	G 100	Tls. 517½, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 92, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 360, x. d. sellers
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$40, sellers
Kalumpung Rubber	50	\$50, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$29.10s, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$19½, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12½, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$50, buyers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$22½, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$22, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T25	Tls. 7½, buyers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$145, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$52, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 54, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

In their Share Report for the week ending 21st May, Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. state:—Business during the week has been quite brisk in all departments, but the principal feature has been the considerable and consistent advance in the price of Maatschappij &c., in Langkat shares. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. On the 15th a small lot of shares changed hands at Tls. 710, but ever since a demand has prevailed and no shares forthcoming. the rate at closing is \$722½ buyers. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. Some shares have changed hands at Tls. 152½. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., preference shares have been dealt in at Tls. 51. Offers are wanted for ordinary shares, and we would quote the rate as Tls. 44 sellers. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. The transaction reported is that of the 15th instant, at Tls. 88½ July. Since then the market has ruled easy and at the close there are sellers for cash at Tls. 85, for July at Tls. 87. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Co. In the early part of the week shares remained fairly steady at Tls. 230 for June and during the last few days a fair number of shares coming out the rate declined gradually to Tls. 224½ for cash and Tls. 227 for June. Sugar Cos.—Perak Sugars have been placed at Tls. 77½. China Sugars: Sellers are reported at \$135. Lands.—A good demand has obtained at Tls. 113. Yesterday a sale was reported at Tls. 114½. Anglo-French Lands have been dealt in at Tls. 96½. Industrial.—Cotton Mill shares: There is no business reported this week. Shanghai Ices: A good many shares are for sale at Tls. 15. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats: The market opened on the 14th with the cash rate at Tls. 482, and transactions reported for June on that day were Tls. 495, Tls. 497½ and Tls. 509. Every day since then has seen an advance of from Tls. 5-10, and without detailing every movement of the market we would briefly quote the rates at closing as Tls. 513½ for cash and Tls. 520 for June. We hear of unreported sales for September at Tls. 535-40. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.: Shares have been in demand and are now wanted at Tls. 90 for May. Kalumpang Rubber Co.: Sales have been made at Tls. 50. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. shares have advanced from 297½ to 299½ for cash. Loans and Debentures.—Six per cent. Municipal Debentures are still in demand at par.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, May 23rd.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2/8
Credits 4 months' sight	2/3
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	158½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137
Bank, on demand	137½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137
Bank on demand	137½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	89
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	89½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	78½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	109½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
On demand	8½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
On demand	8 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
On demand	82½
SOYABEANS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.85
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$56.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	24½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$7.95 discount,
	10 "	8.45 "
Hongkong	20 "	7.25 "
	10 "	7.85 "

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 80/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. or New York (via Suez), Tea 37/8 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—	
ARRIVALS.	
14, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.	
14, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Dalny.	
14, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.	
14, Prudentia, Brit. str., from Balik Pappan.	
14, Reidar, Norwegian str., from Moji.	
15, Anna, Norwegian str., from Pulo Weh.	
15, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.	
15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
15, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Coana, British str., from Yokohama.	
15, Shinchiku Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.	
15, Tean, British str., from Manila.	
15, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
16, Braemar, British str., from Singapore.	
16, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.	
16, Knivsberg, German str., from Swatow.	
16, Lydia, German str., from Hankow.	
16, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.	
16, Sabine Rickmers, Dut. str., from Fochow.	
16, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
16, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.	
17, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Aki Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.	
17, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.	
17, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.	
17, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.	
17, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.	
17, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.	
17, Hopsang, British str., from Wakamatsu.	
17, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.	
17, Signal, German str., from Saigon.	
17, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Moji.	
17, Triumph, German str., from Swatow.	
17, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.	
18, Aloinous, British str., from Shanghai.	
18, Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.	
18, Arratoon Apar, Br. str., from Calcutta.	
18, Cardiganshire, British str., from London.	
18, Germania, German str., from Sydney.	
18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
18, Laertes, British str., from Hankow.	
18, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
18, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Y'hama.	
18, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.	
18, Rabi, British str., from Manila.	
19, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
19, Denbighshire, Brit. str., from Shanghai.	
19, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.	
19, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.	
19, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
19, Moyune, British str., from Singapore.	
19, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.	
20, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.	
20, Hsiohing, British str., from Coast Ports.	
20, Helene, German str., from Tientsin.	
20, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.	
20, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.	
20, Ningpo, British str., from Wuhu.	
20, Oceano, British str., from Hongay.	
20, Wosang, British str., from Shanghai.	
21, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.	
21, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.	
21, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	
21, Lowther Castle, British str., from Kobe.	
21, Tenyo Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.	
21, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., from London.	

May— DEPARTURES.

14, Chipshing, British str., for Swatow.	
14, Chunsang, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.	
14, Kiukiang, British str., for Amoy.	
14, Kiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Bangkok.	
14, Meinam, French str., for Kobe.	
14, Onsang, British str., for Yokohama.	
14, Peleus, Br. str., for Kuchinotsu & Seattle.	
14, Priam, British str., for Shanghai.	

14, Prometheus, Norw. str., for Bangkok.	
14, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.	
14, Wakamiya Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.	
15, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
15, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.	
15, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.	
15, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.	
15, Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.	
15, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Manila.	
15, Looksun, German str., for Bangkok.	
15, Nord, Norwegian str., for Saigon.	
15, Prudentia, British str., for Balik Pappan.	
15, Rajaburi, German str., for Hoihow.	
15, Satsuna, British str., for Manila.	
15, Standard, Norwegian str., for Mauritius.	
15, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.	
15, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.	
16, Asia, British str., for San Francisco.	
16, Hinsang, British str., for Haiphong.	
16, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.	
16, Kumerio, Brit. str., for Moji and Seattle.	
16, Oceano, British str., for Europe, &c.	
16, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Yokohama.	
16, Tsinan, British str., for Yokohama.	
16, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.	
17, Anna, Norwegian str., for Nagasaki.	
17, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.	
17, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	
17, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.	
17, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
17, Keong Wai German str., for Swatow.	
17, Mandal, Norwegian str., for Saigon.	
17, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.	
17, Nanshan, British str., for Hongay.	
17, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.	
17, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Macassar.	
17, Trieste, Austrian str., for Shanghai.	
18, Kwangta, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
18, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.	
18, Knivsberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.	
18, Pakhoi, British str., for Amoy.	
19, Braemar, British str., for Shanghai.	
19, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.	
19, Gregory Apar, Brit. str., for Singapore.	
19, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.	
19, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.	
19, Lydia, German str., for Singapore.	
19, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.	
19, Oriel, British str., for Moji.	
19, Shachsing, British str., for Shanghai.	
19, Tean, British str., for Manila.	
19, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.	
19, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.	
19, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.	
20, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.	
20, Cardiganshire, British str., for Shanghai.	
20, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.	
20, Gleufarg, British str., for Vancouver.	
20, Japan, British str., for London.	
20, Laertes, British str., for Singapore.	
20, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.	
20, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.	
20, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.	
20, Shinchiku Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.	
20, Shinshu Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.	
20, Soson Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
20, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.	
21, Achilles, British str., for Singapore.	
21, Aloinous, British str., for Singapore.	
21, Amgo, German str., for Hoihow.	
21, C. Macmillan, Br. str., for San Francisco.	
21, Denbighshire, British str., for Saigon.	
21, Moyune, British str., for Takau.	
21, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Australia.	
21, Signal, German str., for Haiphong.	
21, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Batavia.	
21, Yochow, British str., for Amoy.	

PASSENGERS

ARRIVED.

Per Tenyo Maru, from Yokohama, Messrs. H. McDougall, E. V. Thorn, Hewitson Hall, M. Hara and F. S. Farnsworth.
Per Japan, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr. G. P. Walen; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Fox, and Mr. A. W. Grant; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. W. Elles; for London, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. (2) Misses Dicks; from Shanghai, Mrs. Grayrigge and 2 children, Mrs. C. H. Godpey and 2 children, Surgeon J. D. Keir, and Mr. Hughes.

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